



COMIC DUMP #6







this show  
is so damn  
good

MARVEL  
**HIT MONKEY**  
hulu





MARVEL  
UNIVERSITY  
1 of 4

ABNETT  
LANNING  
EATON  
MENDOZA  
GANDINI

# IRON MAN

# THOR

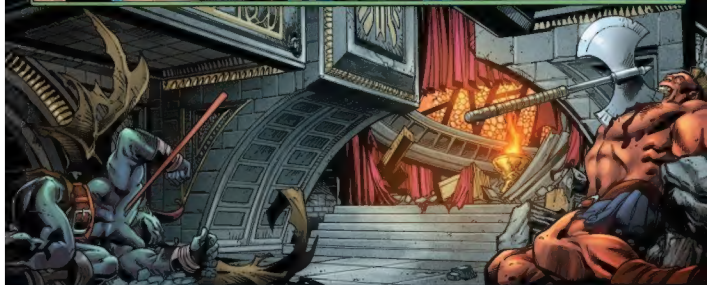


GOD COMPLEX PART 1

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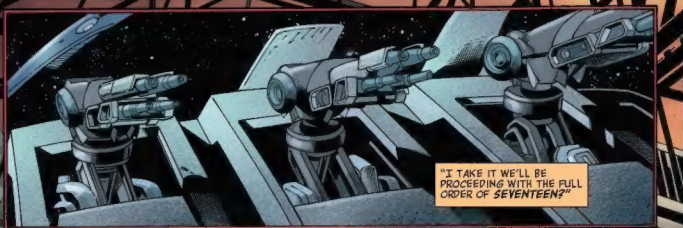
THE CARPATHIAN MOUNTAINS, YESTERDAY.











"I TAKE IT WE'LL BE PROCEEDING WITH THE FULL ORDER OF SEVENTEEN?"



MR. MAGNIUM? SIR?

WE'RE PAINTING A HARD RETURN, APPROACHING THE PLATFORM ULTRA-FAST.



THAT'S JUST AN IMAGING ARTIFACT.

IT REALLY ISN'T, SIR.

THEN ACTIVATE THE WEAPON SYSTEM, INCINERATE IT.

"FIRING!"



"NEGATIVE HITS! THE CONTACT HAS SWITCHED TO NON-BALLISTIC EVASIVE!"



SIR, THE PLATFORM IS GONE.

CLARIFICATION, PLEASE.

"I MEAN IT'S GONE, SIR, IT'S BEEN ANNIHILATED."



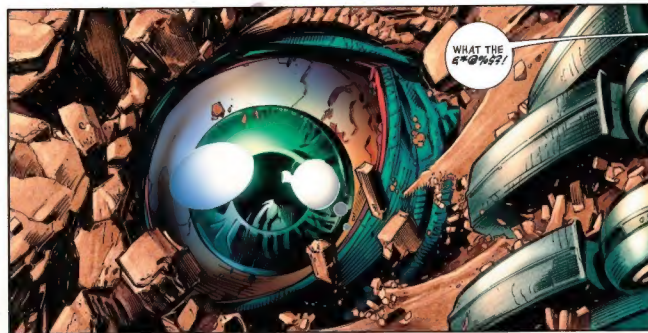
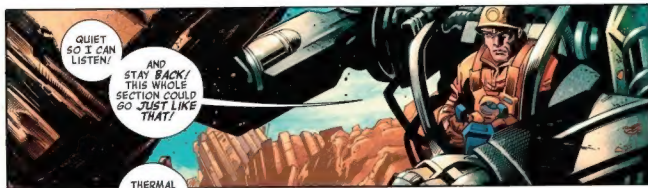


ASGARD, TODAY.

IT IS  
A SORRY  
SIGHT...















DON'T SHOOT!  
DON'T SHOOT  
HIM!

BRAVE  
VOLSTAGG?  
WHAT NOW?



WHAT DID  
THEY DO TO  
YOU RU BOB?  
WHAT DID THE  
NASTY MEN  
DO?

HAVE YOU  
GOT A POORLY  
WOUND? IS THAT  
WHAT'S MADE  
YOU GRUMPY?

IT'S HIS  
PET?



SO IT  
WOULD  
SEEM

I'M  
GETTING AN  
EMERGENCY  
CALL  
THROUGH.

CAN  
YOU HANDLE  
THINGS FROM  
HERE?



I CAN  
MAKE SURE  
VOLSTAGG'S PET  
DOESN'T EAT  
ANYONE. IF THAT'S  
WHAT YOU  
MEAN

I'LL  
SEE YOU  
LATER



COMMANDER  
ROGERS, ALWAYS  
A PLEASURE.

I'M  
AIRBORNE.  
WHAT HAVE  
YOU GOT?

THE  
FORBIDDEN  
ZONE IN RUSSIA  
IS WHAT.



AVENGERS MOBILE HQ

FOR A FEW  
MONTHS NOW, WE'VE  
BEEN AWARE THAT THE  
RUSSIANS HAVE CONSTRUCTED  
A PARTICLE COLLIDER OUT  
THERE. IT'S THEIR  
EQUIVALENT OF  
THE NAZRON.

THERE'S BEEN  
AN EXPERIMENTAL  
ACCIDENT. FROM WHAT  
WE'RE PICKING UP, THEY  
MAY HAVE TRIGGERED A  
GRAVITATIONAL  
COLLAPSE.

YOU  
MEAN?

A MINIATURE  
BLACK HOLE. THEY  
NEED YOU THERE  
BEFORE IT REACHES  
CRITICAL MASS.

THEY'RE  
ASKING FOR  
ME?



YEAH, THEY NEED  
YOUR EXPERTISE SO  
DESPERATELY. THEY'RE  
NOT EVEN GOING FOR  
OLD-SCHOOL OFFICIAL  
PENAL.

I THINK  
THIS IS A BAD  
ONE, TONY.

NO  
KIDDING,  
STEVE.



LORD KNOWS  
WHAT THEY'VE  
MANAGED TO  
REVERSE-ENGINEER  
DOWN THERE.

LET ME  
KNOW THE  
MOMENT YOU  
NEED ANY  
BACKUP

IF NOT  
SOONER



ARMOR, SELECT  
TRANSLATOR  
COLLOQUIAL  
RUSSIAN.

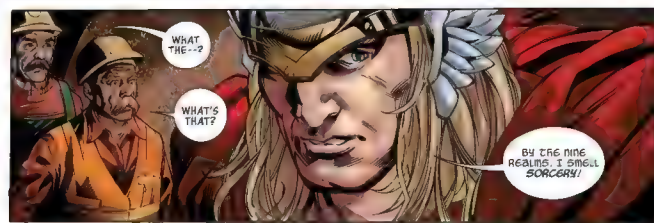
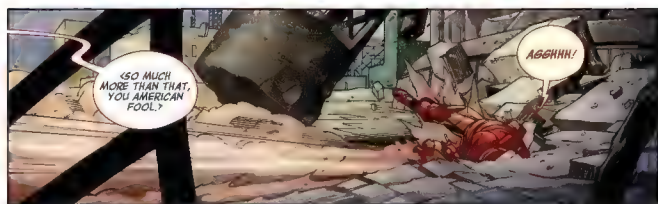
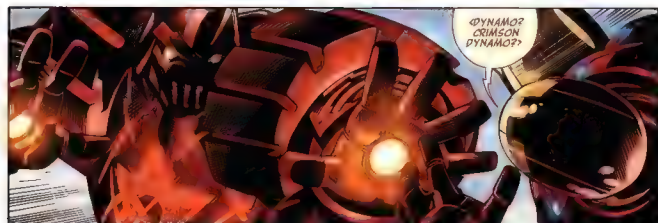
HELLO? I'M  
HERE TO HELP  
YOU. CAN ANYONE  
HEAR ME? ANSWER  
PLEASE?



HELLO? IS  
THERE ANYBODY  
ALIVE HERE?

YES?

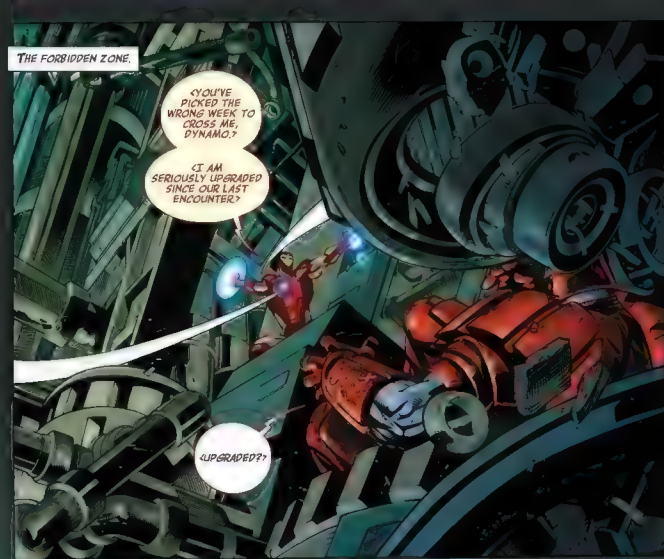




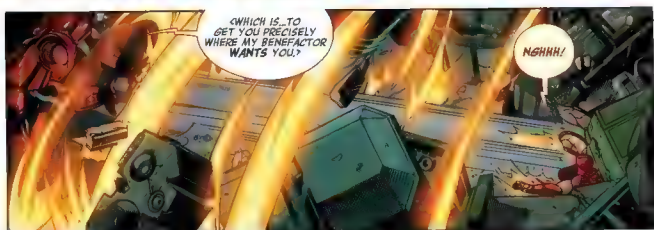












TO BE CONTINUED...



# NEXT ISSUE



TALKIN' 'BOUT AN EVOLUTION!



THOR 617



IRON MAN 32



IRON MAN LEGACY 8

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THOR #2

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ULTIMATE  
2 of 4

ABNETT  
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MENDOZA  
GANDINI

# IRON MAN

## WAR



## GOD COMPLEX PART 2

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# IRON MAN AND THOR IN GOD COMPLEX

CHAPTER TWO

DAN ABNETT & ANDY LANNING SCRIPT	KOT EATON PENCIL	JAIME MENDOZA INK	VERONICA CARDINI COLOR	YU CLAYTON COWLEY LETTER	SEGOVIA & KEITH COVER
CHARLIE BECKERMAN ART EDITOR	RALPH MACCHIO EDITOR	JOE OUBIADA EDITOR IN CHIEF	DAN BUCKLEY PLANNER	ALAN FINE EXEC. PRODUCER	

YOU  
ARE BEATEN,  
CRUNDER  
GOD.

STAY  
POWER, PO  
NOT PROLONG  
THIS FARGE

ULIK.

PREVIOUSLY IN

# IRON MAN THOR

In the wake of the Siege of Asgard, the city lies in ruins. Tony Stark has been forgiven of all past crimes and now aids the Asgardians in the reconstruction of the Shining City—no easy task, given the mythical surprises within, including the pet dragon of Volstagg the Voluminous.

But there are forces at work that aim to prevent Thor and Stark from rebuilding what was once destroyed. An unknown murderer has invaded the inner sanctum of Baron Mordo, while a Russian particle collider has been destroyed, causing a small black hole to form near Earth's atmosphere.

Leaving Thor to deal with the clean-up in Asgard, Iron Man—prompted by Steve Rogers—rushes off to Russia on a rescue mission. While he's gone, the troll Ulik arrives in Asgard, hell-bent on pulverizing Thor. The troll's power seems to have somehow increased beyond measure, leaving Thor in a dangerous spot. Meanwhile, Iron Man's attempted rescue mission leaves him badly in need of rescuing himself when he is blind-sided by the Crimson Dynamo—whose power, like Ulik's, has also increased significantly. Tony is confounded—and nearly defeated—by this development, until the Dynamo's mysterious benefactor reveals himself: *"The High Evolutionary intends to build a god fit for the twenty-first century. And **you** will be his raw materials."*

















IS THIS A VIRTUAL ENVIRONMENT?

NO, A CONCEPTUAL ONE.

A PLACE OF LEARNING AND CREATION.



IT LOOKS LIKE THE POPULAR CONCEPTION OF HEAVEN.

I PRESUME THIS HAS BEEN DONE WITH LITTLE OR NO IRONY?

IT SEEMED APPROPRIATE I AM MANUFACTURING A NEW GOD FOR THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY, MR. STARK.



A NEW GOD?

YOU DON'T SEEM PARTICULARLY AGNAST.



IN MY EXPERIENCE, IT'S UNWISE TO PUT ANYTHING PAST YOU.

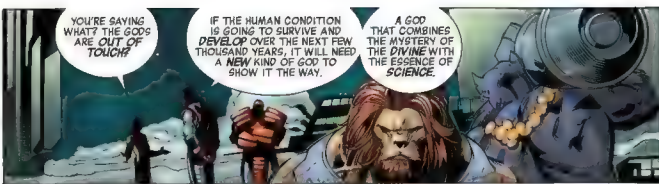
I THINK I'LL SKIP THE WHOLE SHOCKED AND HORRIFIED STAGE SO WE CAN CUT STRAIGHT TO WHY.

THE EXISTING PANTHEONS OF GODS ARE OUTDATED AND LITTERLY IRRELEVANT.

THEY AROSE BEFORE MANKIND BLOOMED INTO A TECHNOLOGICALLY SOPHISTICATED SPECIES







YOU'RE SAYING WHAT THE GODS ARE OUT OF TOUCH?

IF THE HUMAN CONDITION IS GOING TO SURVIVE AND DEVELOP OVER THE NEXT FEW THOUSAND YEARS, IT WILL NEED A NEW KIND OF GOD TO SHOW IT THE WAY.

A GOD THAT COMBINES THE MYSTERY OF THE DIVINE WITH THE ESSENCE OF SCIENCE.



THE OLD GODS ARE WANING, MR. STARK. THEY ARE OBSOLETE. YOU YOURSELF HAVE SEEN HOW ASGARD HAS FALLEN.

I MADE GREAT ADVANCES WITH MY NEW MEN, BUT THEY ULTIMATELY LACKED THE SPARK OF GODHEAD.

THERE IS A VACANCY TO FILL, MR. STARK, ONE THAT BLENDS TECHNOLOGY AND THE METEABLE QUALITIES OF THE DIVINE.



A PROCESS YOU CLEARLY BEGAN WITH YOUR HIRE MUSCLE, CRIMSON DYNAMO.

YOU'RE EVIDENTLY DOING IT HERE TOO. THIS TECH HAS BEEN BOOTED WITH WITH ARCAINE DEVICES I DON'T BEGIN TO UNDERSTAND.

I DIDN'T EXPECT THIS KIND OF SYNTHESIS TO BE PART OF YOUR SKILL SET.



I HAVE RECRUITED HELP, A SPECIALIST IN THE MORE ESOTERIC FIELDS WHERE MY KNOWLEDGE IS LACKING.

HE IS ESPECIALLY CAPABLE WITH TRANSMUTATIONS AND--

IIIIIEE!



ONE OF THEM'S HURT.

THIS EQUIPMENT IS VOLATILE AND DANGEROUS. I WARNED ANY NEW MEN TO WORK CAREFULLY.

DISPOSE OF HIS BODY.

AAAAHH!



THE NEW MEN ARE SCARED, HIGH EVOLUTIONARY THEY'RE SCARED OF WHAT THIS MECHANISM REPRESENTS.

SO THEY SHOULD BE. AN ERA IS ABOUT TO COME TO AN END.

WHEN I BUILD GOD, MR. STARK, THE WORLD WILL CHANGE, AND THEY WILL BECOME AN EXPERIMENT WHOSE PURPOSE HAS EXPIRED.

YOU ARE, OF COURSE, VITAL TO THIS PROCESS.



HOW SO?



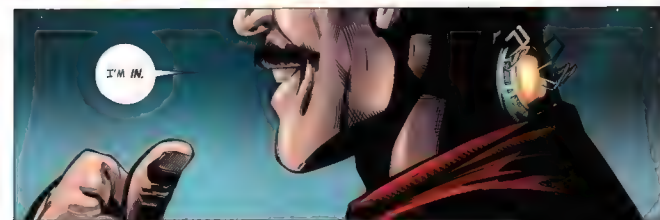
IRON MAN IS THE CRUCIAL INGREDIENT. HE..

YOU WILL BE THE VESSEL FOR THE NEW GOD.





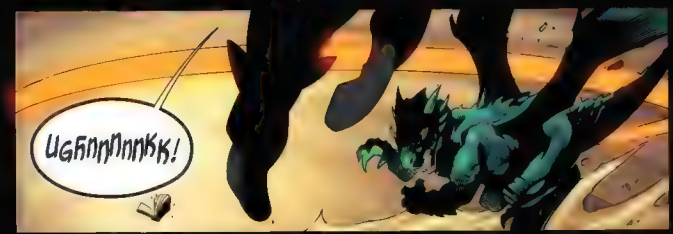




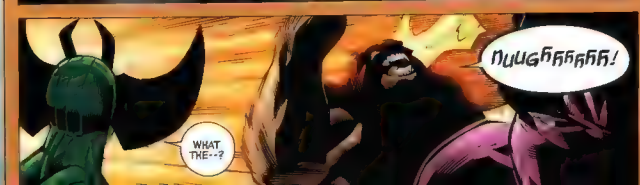
















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# IRON MAN

MARVEL  
LIMITED SERIES  
3 of 4



ABNETT  
LANNING  
EATON  
MENDOZA  
GANDINI



DAN ABNETT & ANDY LANNING	ICOT EATON	JAIME MENDOZA WITH JEFF HUET AND LORENZO RUGGIERO	VERONICA VECI CLAYTON	SECOVIA COWLES & KEITH	CHARLIE BECKERMAN	RALPH MACCHIO	JOE QUEJADA	DAN BUCKLEY	ALAN FINE
CRP	PENGUIN	MA	CONCHI	LETTER COVER	EDITOR	EDITOR	EDITOR	EDITOR	EXEC PRODUCER

A comic book illustration of Thor and Iron Man in a close-quarters battle. Thor, on the left, wears his traditional blue tunic, red cape, and winged helmet. He is holding his hammer, Mjolnir, which is glowing with a bright orange energy. Iron Man, on the right, is shown in his iconic red and gold armor, with his face partially visible through the helmet. He is holding a glowing orange energy sphere in his right hand, mirroring the energy of Thor's hammer. The background is a warm, orange-yellow glow, suggesting a fiery or intense environment. The entire scene is framed by a thick orange border.

**THIS WILL  
CEASE!**

SOMETHING MUST  
LOSE SO THAT  
SOMETHING ELSE  
CAN GAIN.



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THE BETTER PART OF A CENTURY AGO, HERBERT WYNDHAM BEGAN WORKING TO EFFECT CHANGE.

UNDER THE GUIDANCE OF NATHANIEL ESSEX, HE DEVELOPED A GENETIC ACCELERATOR THAT WOULD RESHAPE THE TWENTIETH CENTURY.

WYNDHAM UNDERSTOOD THAT SACRIFICE WAS A DOWN PAYMENT ON CHANGE.

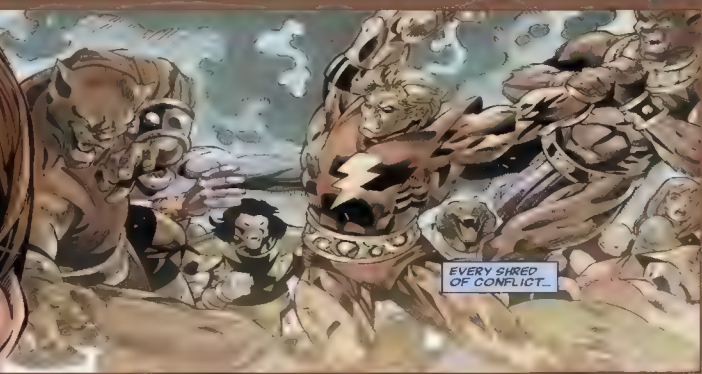
WHEN EVOLUTION IS DELIBERATELY GUIDED, THE INEVITABLE DISCOMFORT MUST BE SKILLFULLY MANAGED.

IT MUST BE ACCEPTED WILLINGLY.

WYNDHAM WAS WILLING. HE EMBRACED THE LOSSES IN RETURN FOR THE BENEFITS.

IN RETURN FOR NEW MEN.

IN RETURN FOR A NEW WORLD, A COUNTER-EARTH.

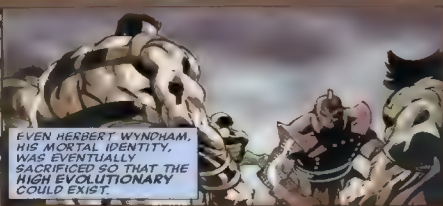


EVERY SHRED OF CONFLICT.

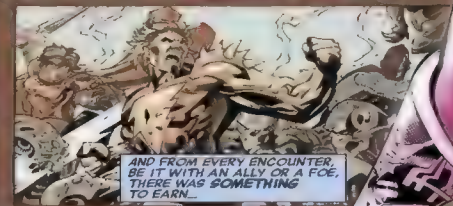


...EVERY BATTLE, EVERY LABORIOUS TRIAL AND EFFORT...

CONTRIBUTED TO THE WHOLE.



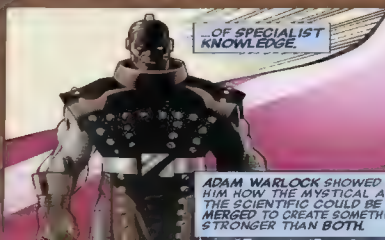
EVEN HERBERT WYNDHAM, HIS MORTAL IDENTITY, WAS EVENTUALLY SACRIFICED SO THAT THE HIGH EVOLUTIONARY COULD EXIST.



AND FROM EVERY ENCOUNTER, BE IT WITH AN ALLY OR A FOE, THERE WAS SOMETHING TO EARN.



THE CURRENCIES OF POWER, OF INFORMATION, OF TRADED PAIN.

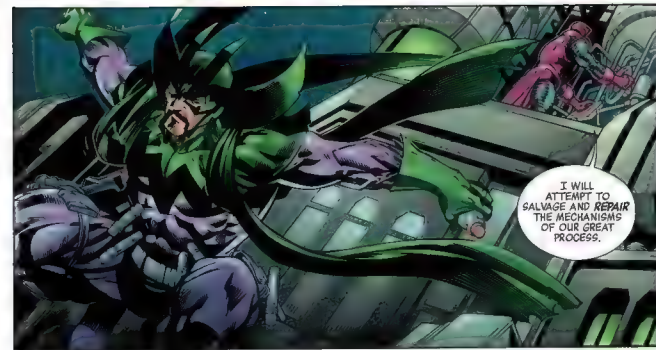
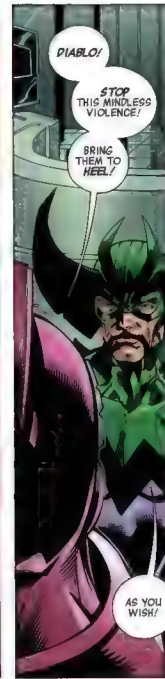
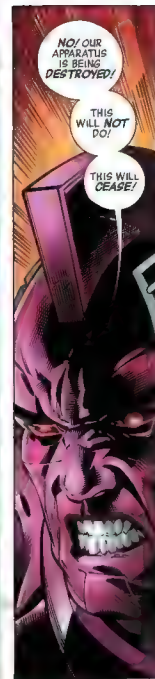
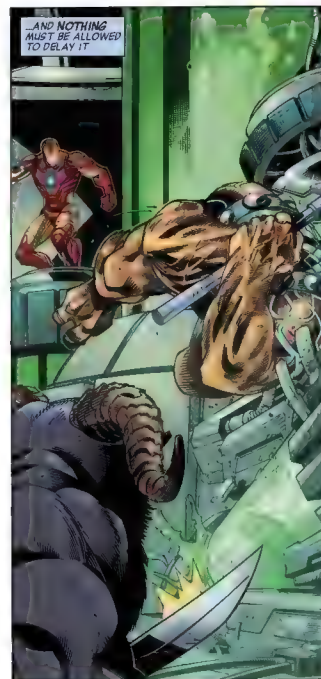


OF SPECIALIST KNOWLEDGE.

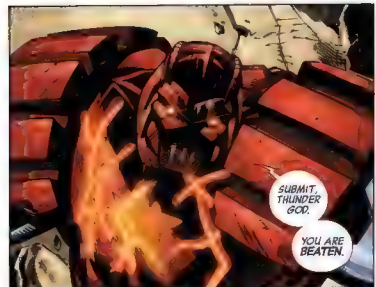
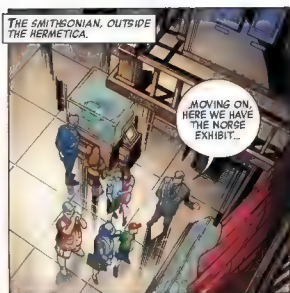
ADAM WARLOCK SHOWED HIM HOW THE MYSTICAL AND THE SCIENTIFIC COULD BE MERGED TO CREATE SOMETHING STRONGER THAN BOTH.

HIS DEALINGS WITH MAGNETO AND THE KREE HAVE SHOWN HIM THAT HUMANITY SORELY LACKS A CONTROLLING DESTINY.

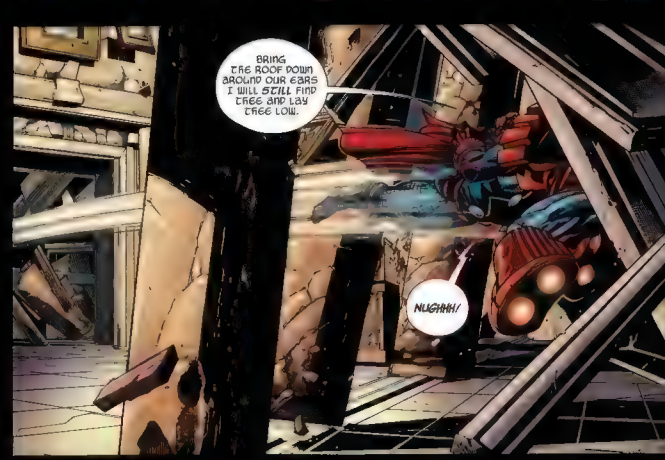












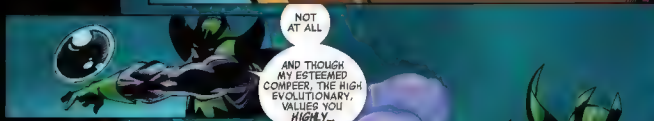




IF YOU CONTINUE YOUR RAMPAGE, YOU RISK DAMAGING SO MUCH OF OUR DELICATE APPARATUS.

THE ENTIRE HERMETICA MAY COLLAPSE AS A CONCEPTUAL PLACE AND CRUSH US ALL.

DO I LOOK LIKE I CARE, DIABLO?



NOT AT ALL.  
AND THOUGH MY ESTEEMED COWPEX, THE HIGH EVOLUTIONARY, VALUES YOU HIGHLY...



I FIND I SEE NOTHING BUT THE TREACHEROUS CHARLATAN I ALWAYS BELIEVED YOU TO BE.

DAMN! WHAT THE--

YOU WERE NEVER WORTHY, YOU FRAIL, FLAWED MAN.

WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO ME?

MERELY SHOWN YOU THE TRUTH.

UGHNNNN! CAN'T CLEAR THE SUIT!



TERROR! IT'S TERROR! WE--

ULIHS

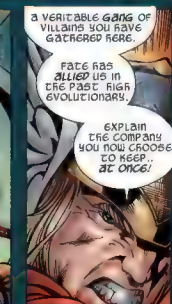


UGHNNNN!



AND DIABLO.

UGHNNNN!



A VERITABLE GANG OF VILLAINS YOU HAVE GATHERED HERE.

FATE HAS ALLIED US IN THE PAST. HIGH EVOLUTIONARY.

EXPLAIN THE COMPANY YOU NOW CHOOSE TO KEEP. AT ONCE!



THIS WILL NOT DO! THIS MUST ALL BE REBUILT!

THE HIGH EVOLUTIONARY IS OCCUPIED.

ALLOW ME TO EXPLAIN.

















THOR... I  
THINK WE'VE  
BEEN PLAYED  
FOR FOOLS.

SOULS  
I MUST  
CONCUR.



YOU SAW  
WHAT WAS IN  
YOUR HEARTS. THE  
MIST TRUST YOU  
HAVE FOR ONE  
ANOTHER.

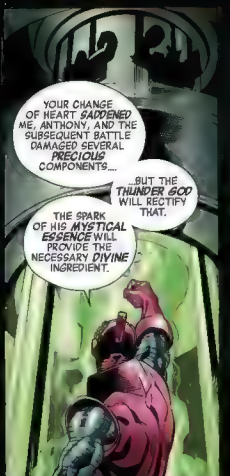
MY POTION  
MERELY  
AMPLIFIED  
THAT  
ANIMUS.

CHANGE  
ALWAYS WORKS  
BEST WHEN IT IS  
BASED ON SOLID  
FOUNDATIONS.



THE  
PROCESS  
WILL BEGIN.

THE FUTURE  
WILL NOT WAIT  
FOREVER.



YOUR CHANGE  
OF HEART SADDENED  
ME, ANTHONY. AND THE  
SUBSEQUENT BATTLE  
DAMAGED SEVERAL  
PRECIOUS  
COMPONENTS...

BUT THE  
THUNDER GOD  
WILL RECTIFY  
THAT.

THE SPARK  
OF HIS MYSTICAL  
ESSENCE WILL  
PROVIDE THE  
NECESSARY DIVINE  
INGREDIENT.



AND AS  
FOR THE VESSEL  
ITSELF, DIABLO  
HAS MADE A  
LOGICAL  
SUGGESTION.



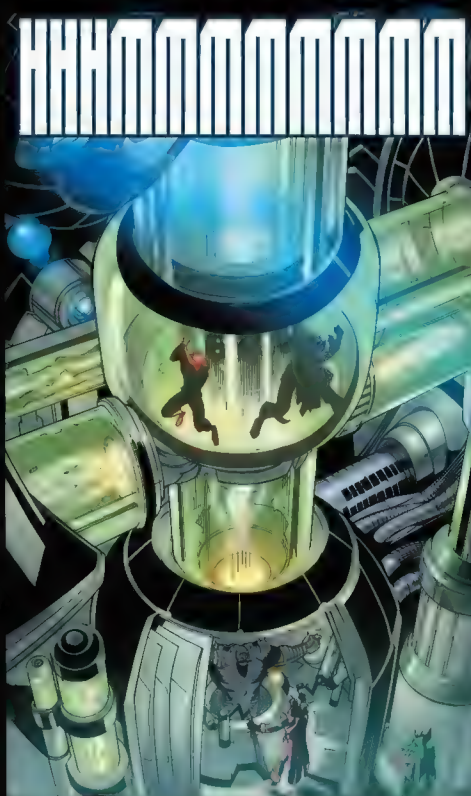
I CAN  
TRUST NO  
ONE.

ONLY I  
CAN ENABLE  
MANKIND'S  
TRUE  
DESTINY.

I WILL  
BE THE VESSEL  
FOR THE GOOD OF  
ALL MANKIND. I  
MUST OBEY THIS  
SUPER-MORTAL  
INCARNATION...

AND  
BECOME A  
TRUE GOD.





THOR!  
CAN YOU  
BREAK  
FREE?

NO, THE  
RESTRAINTS  
ARE TOO  
FIRM.

STARK,  
THIS INFERNAL  
MACHINE IS  
ALREADY  
SAPPING MY  
STRENGTH.



YES!  
YES!  
NHHHHH!



I DON'T  
UNDERSTAND  
THIS ISN'T  
RIGHT...

THIS  
WILL NOT  
DO.

THIS  
MUST  
CEASE.



HOW  
CAN THIS  
BE?

EAARRGHHH!



I THOUGHT  
YOU WOULD  
UNDERSTAND. HIGH  
EVOLUTIONARY.  
CHANGE IS  
GOOD.

SO I  
CHANGED OUR  
PLACES AND OUR  
APPEARANCES, AND  
I CHANGED YOUR  
MIND UNTIL  
CONFUSION  
REIGNED.

AND NOW  
THE ONE  
PERFECT VESSEL  
HAS ACHIEVED  
GOODHOOD.

**TO BE CONCLUDED NEXT ISSUE!**  
**ISSUE FOUR HITS STANDS 2/2/2011!**

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4 of 4

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# PREVIOUSLY IN IRON MAN THOR

In the wake of the Siege of Asgard, the city lies in ruins. While Tony Stark, forgiven of all past crimes, arrives to aid the Asgardians in the reconstruction of the Shining City, dark forces are at work: the High Evolutionary has grand plans to build a god fit for the twenty-first century, by blending technology and the qualities of the divine. He's a big fan of Tony's Iron Man suit...and he plans to use Tony as the vessel for his new deity.

After a furious battle against Thor in Asgard, the troll Ulik and the evil alchemist Diablo manage to steal the Asgardian Destroyer armor and deliver it to the High Evolutionary in the conceptual space that serves as the creative headquarters for his new god—hidden in the pages of an ancient text. Thor, discovering their whereabouts, breaks in, but Diablo subdues him and Iron Man with a mind-altering potion that pits them against each other, and when they come to, they're bound to the High Evolutionary's god-machine, preparing to be sapped of all their strength.

Realizing that he can rely on no one, the High Evolutionary uses himself as the vessel for his own new god. But Diablo was never to be trusted: unknown to anyone, Diablo used his nefarious alchemical tricks to trade places and appearances with the High Evolutionary, usurping him, and transforming himself into the new deity!

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ANDY LANING**  
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THIS MY MAGNUM OPUS  
BEGAN WITH THE THUNDER  
AND BLOOD OF BATTLE



I HAD BARTERED MY SOUL TO THE LORD  
MEPHISTO IN EXCHANGE FOR IMMORTALITY

I KNEW I WOULD NEED MANY  
HUMAN LIFE SPANS TO PROPERLY  
UNRAVEL THE ART OF ALCHEMY.

BY THE TIME EL CID CAME TO SEEK MY AID,  
THE FIRST STAGES WERE COMPLETE, AND  
I HAD MASTERED PUTREFACTIO, THE  
BLACKNESS, CORRUPTION.



...DISSOLUTION!



BY MY HAND, EL CID TOOK  
THE CITY, AND IN THE  
CHAOS THAT ENSUED.



I QUIETLY ACQUIRED THE  
SECRETS AND DISCOVERIES OF  
RIVAL ALCHEMISTS WHO HAD  
SOUGHT REFUGE IN VALENCIA.

FROM THESE CAME MY NEXT  
TRANSFORMATION: ALBEDO, THE  
WHITENESS OF PURIFICATION.



EL CID HIMSELF, RODRIGO  
DÍAZ DE VIVAR, THANKED  
ME FOR MY SERVICE.

YOU  
HAVE PROVEN  
YOURSELF WITH  
YOUR DEEDS THIS  
NIGHT.


YOUR  
POWERS  
RIVAL GOD'S  
OWN.




THIS  
IS NOT  
SOMEHEAD,  
SIR.

THAT  
IS AN  
ACHIEVEMENT  
STILL TO  
COME.






WITH EACH PASSING DECADE, I  
MOVED CLOSER TO COMPLETING  
THE GREAT WORK.



I ATTAINED CITRINITAS, THE  
YELLOWNESS OF ENLIGHTENMENT,  
BUT ALWAYS THE FINAL  
TRANSFORMATION ELUDED ME.

RUBEDO, THE REDDENING THAT  
SIGNIFIES THE UNIFICATION  
OF MAN WITH GOD.



MY MEDITATIONS TOOK ME  
TO EVERY CORNER OF THIS  
IMPERFECT WORLD.

AND AT EVERY TURN, I  
WAS CONFOUNDED BY THE  
SUPERSTITIOUS HERD. I WAS  
IMPRISONED FOR A CENTURY...



AND ULTIMATELY RELEASED  
INTO A NEW WORLD OF  
ALMOST GODS.

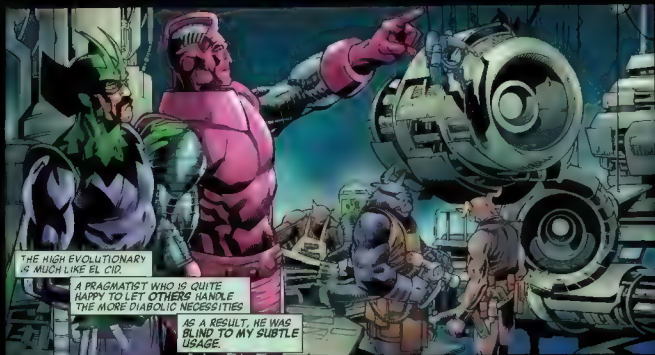


A WORLD OF  
NEW MARVELS  
THAT WERE MINE  
TO COMMAND.





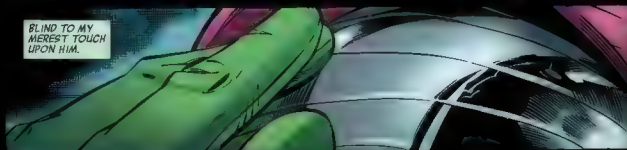
AND THE KEY TO  
THAT COMMAND CAME  
LOOKING FOR ME.



THE HIGH EVOLUTIONARY  
IS MUCH LIKE EL CID.

A PRAGMATIST WHO IS QUITE  
HAPPY TO LET OTHERS HANDLE  
THE MORE DIABOLIC NECESSITIES

AS A RESULT, HE WAS  
BLIND TO MY SUBTLE  
USAGE.



BLIND TO MY  
MEREST TOUCH  
UPON HIM.



BLIND TO THE CONTROLLING  
ELEMENTS COURSE THROUGH  
HIS BLOOD.

I AM NOT HIS SERVANT.  
HE HAS BEEN IN MY  
UNWITTING THRALL SINCE  
THE VERY START.



I  
AM THE  
MASTER  
NOW.

HE HAS  
USURPED  
ME!

NO  
KIDDING!

WHAT  
WAS YOUR  
FIRST  
CLUE?

WHAT IS  
DIABLO DOING?  
THIS WASN'T  
PART OF THE  
BARGAIN!

NEW  
BARGAIN  
FOR YOU AND  
DYNAMO,  
ULIK.

HELP ME,  
AND GAIN THE  
FAVOR OF AN  
ALL-MIGHTY  
GOD



HEY! STARTED  
USING THE GOD  
POWERS YOU'VE  
GIVEN HIM TO  
RE-WRITE THE  
FABRIC OF  
CREATION!



YOUR  
SARCASM  
ISN'T HELPFUL,  
ANTHONY.

WHAT IS,  
THEN?

I HAVE  
NO IDEA! DIABLO  
HAS PROCELLED THIS  
MATTER INTO THE  
REALM OF THE  
MYSTICAL. I DO NOT  
KNOW HOW MEN OF  
SCIENCE DEAL  
WITH THAT!









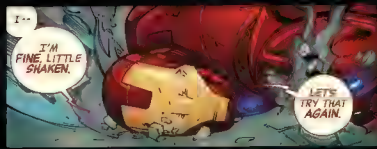




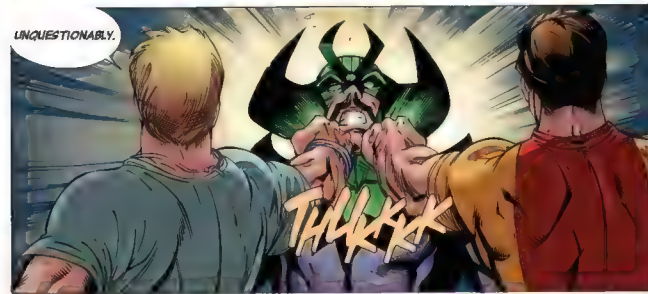








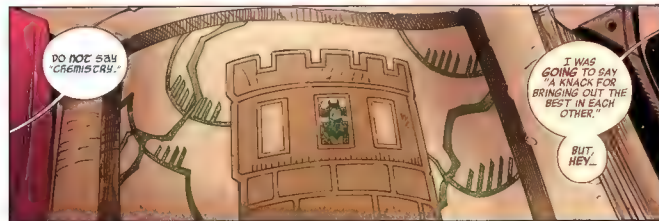














MARVEL

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# DEADPOOL

WHAT  
~~WHO~~ IS  
EVIL  
DEADPOOL?

WAY  
ESPIN  
GURU of X

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Some jobs are just too tough for your average fast-talkin' high-tech gun-for-hire. Sometimes...to get the job done right...you need someone crazier than a sack'a ferrets. You need Wade Wilson. The Crimson Comedian. The Regeneratin' Degenerate. The Merc with a Mouth...

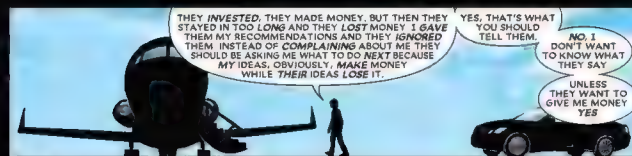
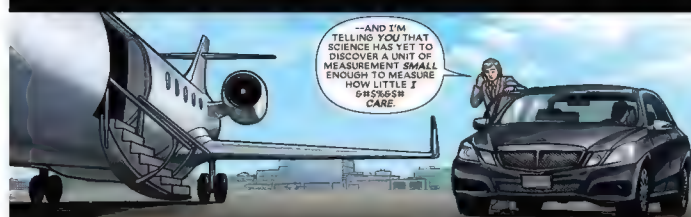
# DEADPOOL



Deadpool has been through a lot. His journey to find a place to belong has taken him into the ranks of super heroes, pirates, and vampires. He's gone from the depths of space to the home of his best friend to the psychiatric ward of a British prison...none of them worked out particularly well. Has something to do with the one constant presence in his life...himself. Turns out, he's no fan. Unfortunately, his late therapist/stalker, Dr. Ella Whitby, was. She had quite the collection of shed 'Pool parts...just enough to thaw out and start healing back together...

DANIEL WAY WRITER	SALVA ESPIN ARTIST	GURU eFX COLORS	VC'S JOE SABINO LETTERER
NICK BRADSHAW & FRANK MARTIN COVER	JORDAN D. WHITE EDITOR	NICK LOWE SENIOR EDITOR	
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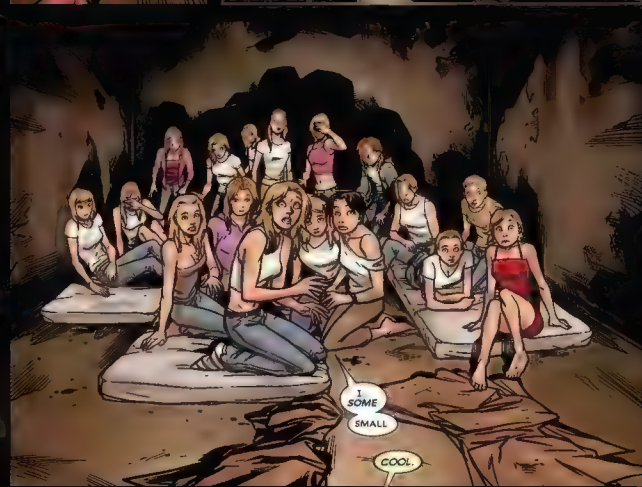




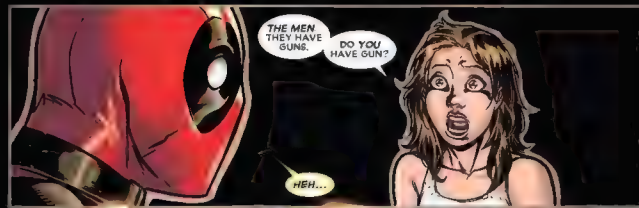
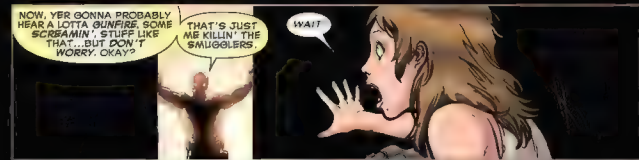
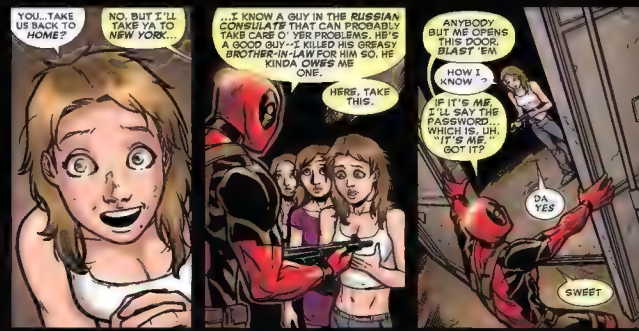


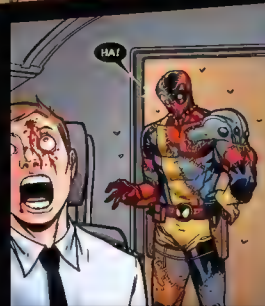
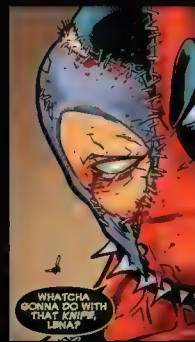
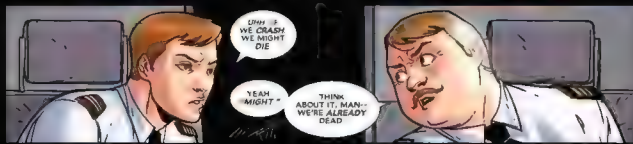






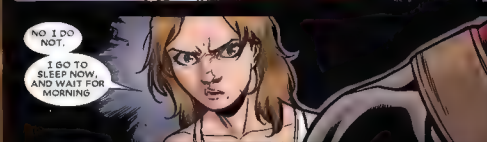
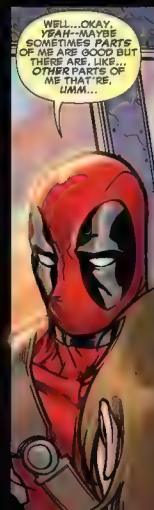
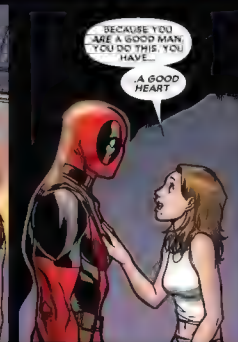
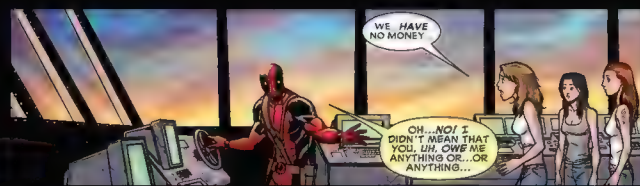
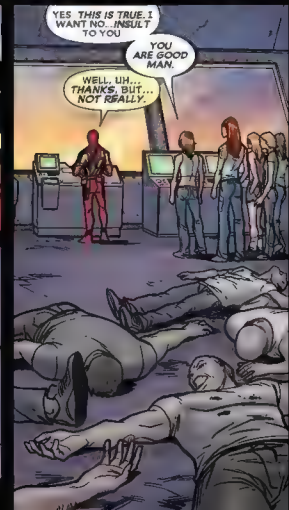
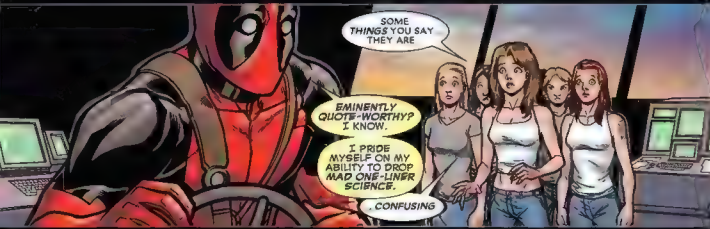
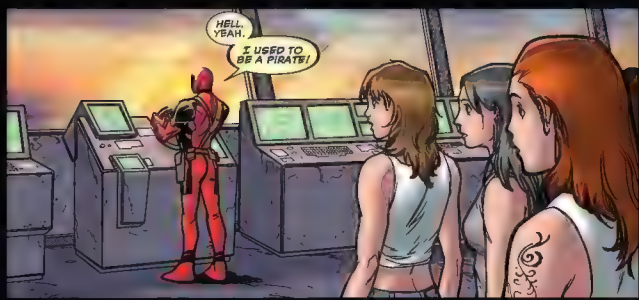


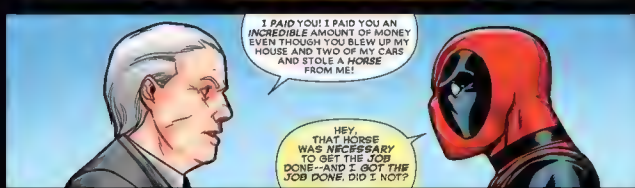




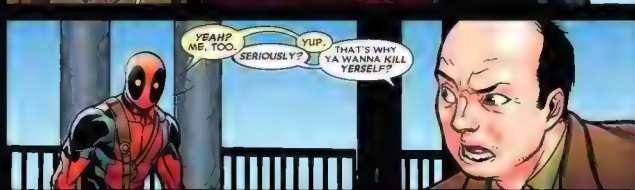
"YOU KNOW HOW TO... DRIVE THIS?"











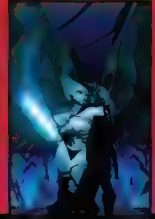


NEXT



THEY MEET!

MORE POOL



UNCANNY X-FORCE #7



DEADPOOL MAX #1  
ON SALE NOW



FLYING-ON-FIRE-GUY #1



# DEADPOOL #46



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MARVEL

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WAY  
ESPIN  
GURUCFX

# DEADPOOL

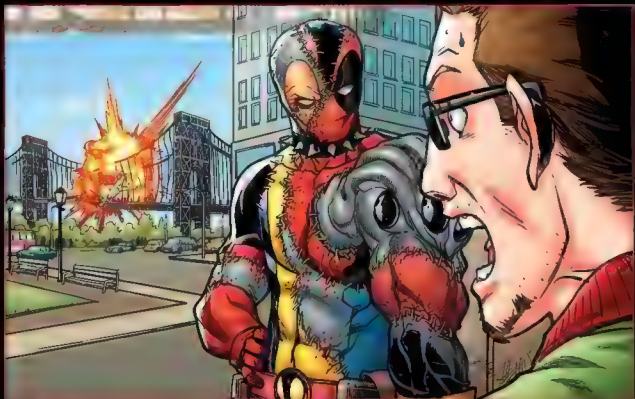
I'D SAY  
I WANT A PIECE  
OF YOU...

BUT I'VE  
ALREADY GOT A  
FULL SET.





# DEADPOOL



<b>DANIEL WAY</b> WRITER	<b>SALVA ESPIN</b> ARTIST	<b>GURU FFX</b> COLORS	<b>VC'S JOE SABINO</b> LETTERS
<b>NICK BRADSHAW &amp; FRANK MARTIN</b> COVER	<b>JORDAN D. WHITE</b> EDITOR	<b>NICK LOWE</b> SENIOR EDITOR	
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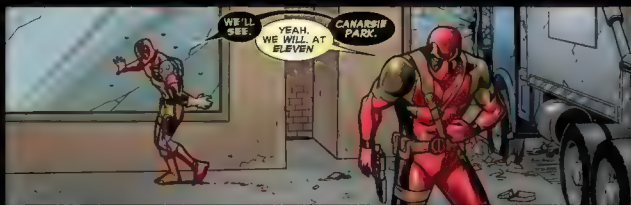
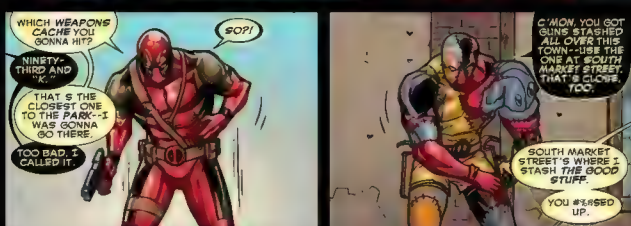
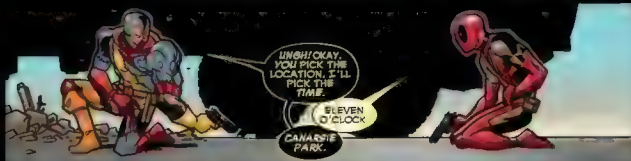




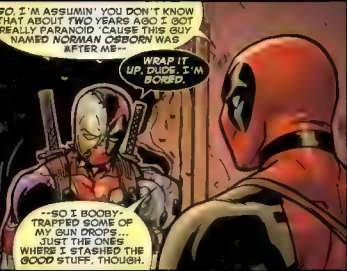
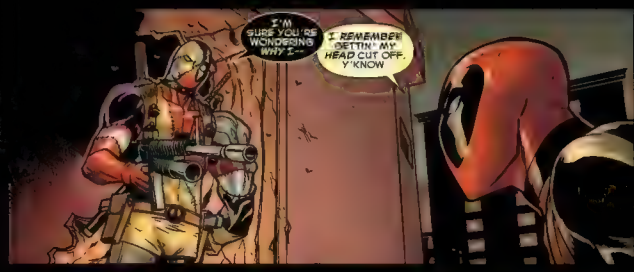


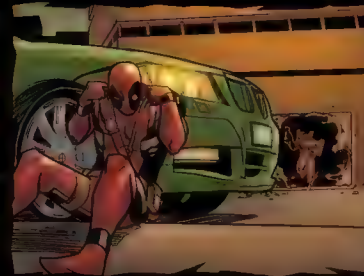






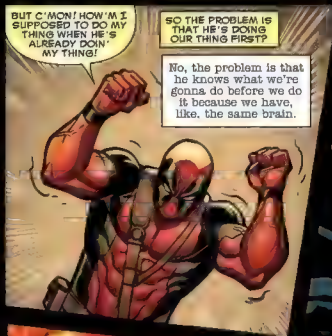












SO THE PROBLEM IS THAT HE'S DOING OUR THING FIRST?

No, the problem is that he knows what we're gonna do before we do it because we have, like, the same brain.

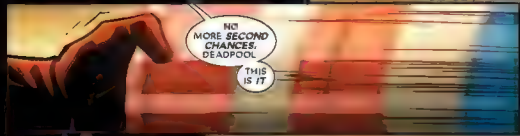
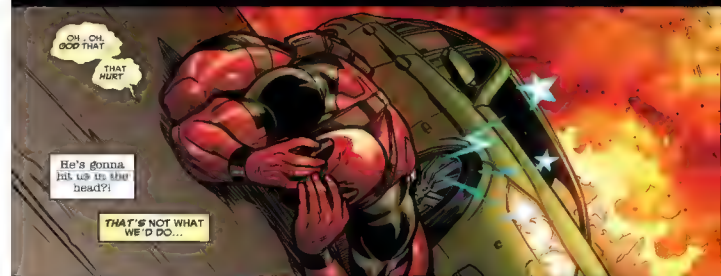


Probably.

SO WHAT'S HE DOING?



HE'S GONNA--







# NEXT MONTH



## 'POOL VS. CAP! 12/07/11

MORE 'POOL!



UNCANNY X-FORCE #17  
ON SALE NOW



DEADPOOL MAX 2 #2  
ON SALE NOW



DEADPOOL MAX  
X-MAS SPECIAL  
12/07/11

MARVEL

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WAY  
ESPIN  
GURUCFX

# DEADPOOL

NOW WITH 100%  
MORE EVIL!

'POOL  
VS  
CAP

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# DEADPOOL



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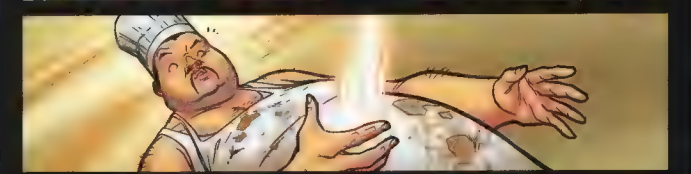
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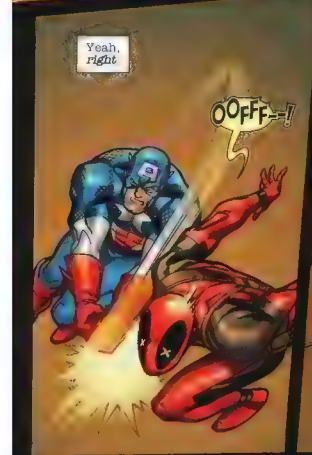
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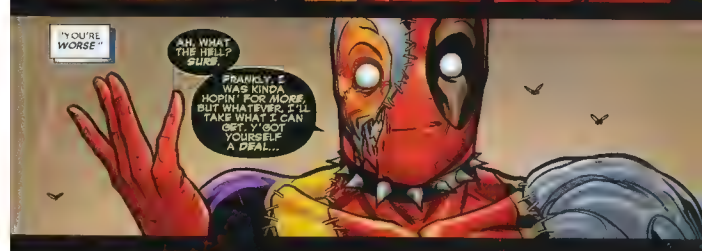
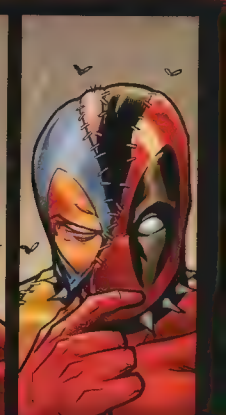
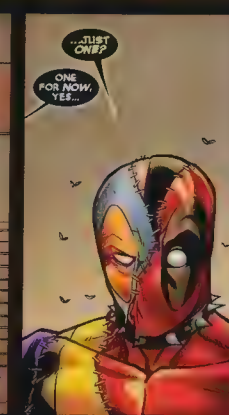
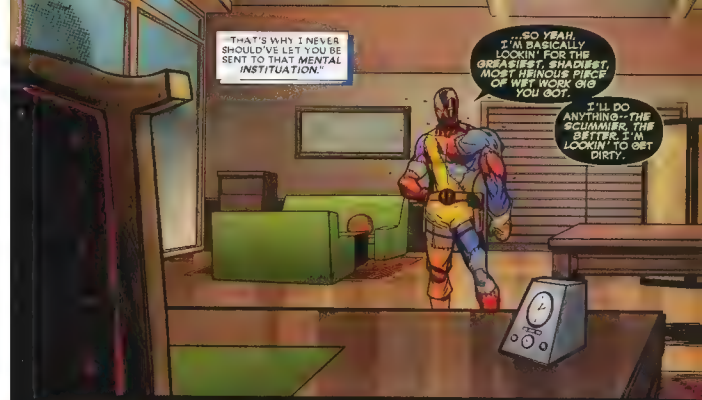
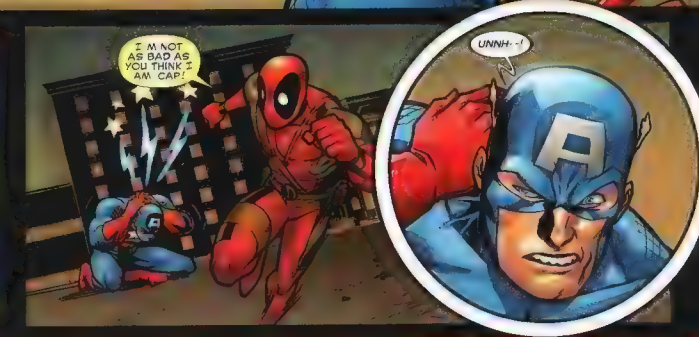






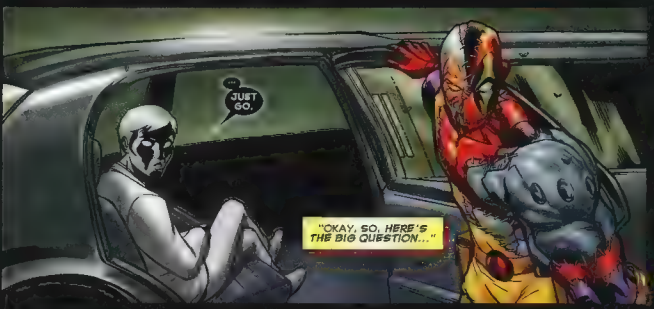
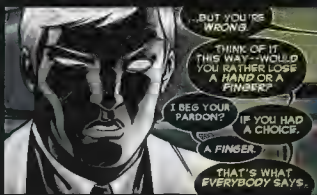
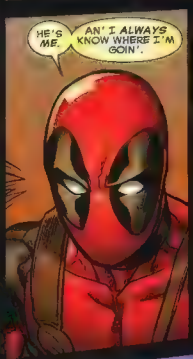




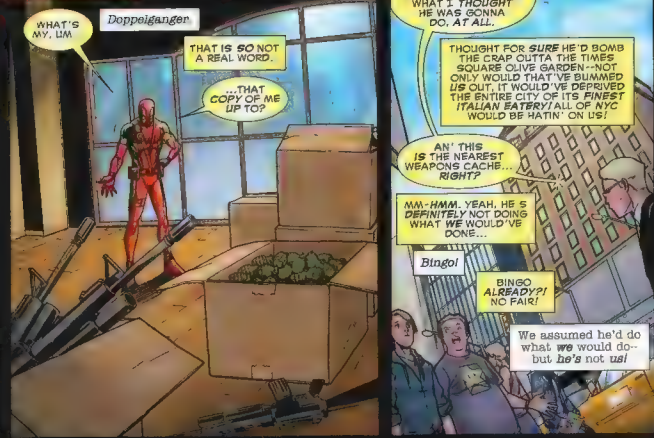








THE NEXT DAY:



WHAT'S MY, UM

Doppelganger

THAT IS SO NOT A REAL WORD.

...THAT COPY OF ME UP TOP?

'CAUSE HE'S NOT DOIN' WHAT I THOUGHT HE WAS GONNA DO, AT ALL.

THOUGHT FOR SURE HE'D BOMB THE CRAP OUTTA THE TIMES SQUARE OLIVE GARDEN--NOT ONLY WOULD THAT'VE BURNED US OUT, IT WOULD'VE DEPRIVED THE ENTIRE CITY OF ITS FINEST ITALIAN EATERY! ALL OF NYC WOULD BE HATIN' ON US!

AN' THIS IS THE NEAREST WEAPONS CACHE... RIGHT?

WAI--HMM, YEAH, HE'S DEFINITELY NOT DOING WHAT HE WOULD'VE DONE...

Bingo!

BINGO ALREADY?! NO FAIR!

We assumed he'd do what we would do--but *he's* not us!



JHH... SO I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT HE'S GONNA DO?

THAT SUCKS

OH... OH/BINGO OVER HERE, TOO!

We shouldn't be asking what we would do

WE SHOULD BE ASKING WHAT WE'D NEVER DO!



...THAT? Yeah. That.

MEANIN' WE'RE GONNA HAFTA--

I GOTTA BEAT HIM TO THE PUNCH!

Exactly.

AN' WE GOTTA DO IT FAST--THERE'S NO TELLIN' HOW MUCH OF A HEAD START HE HAS ON US.

SSSS.

SORRY, CAP...



...BUT IT'S THE ONLY WAY.

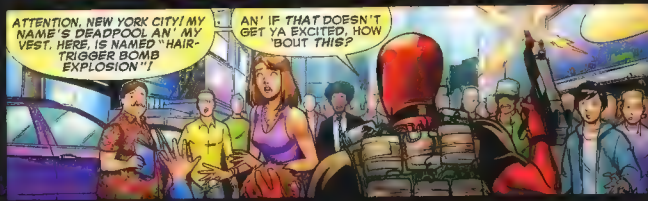
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU UP TO, WADE?

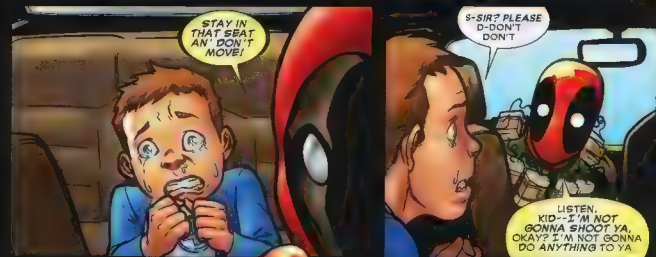
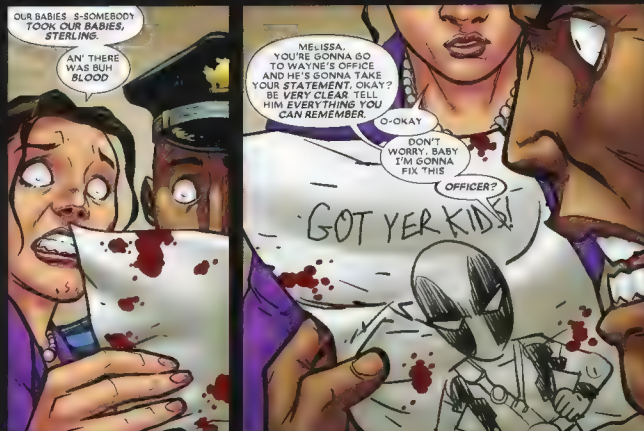
THERE YA GO, JUST KEEP ON WONDERIN'...

Between that an' the street noise, this should be--

DUDE, THIS IS GONNA BE SWEET.











CONTINUED

# NEXT MONTH



# POOR CAP...

12/28/11

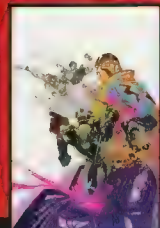
MORE POOL



DEADPOOL MAX  
X-MAS SPECIAL  
ON SALE NOW!



UNCANNY X-FORCE #18  
12/14/11



UNCANNY X-FORCE #19  
12/21/11

MARVEL

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# DEADPOOL

VS EVIL  
DEADPOOL



WAY  
ESPIN  
GURU eFX



# DEADPOOL



<b>DANIEL WAY</b> WRITER	<b>SALVA ESPIN</b> ARTIST	<b>GURU FX</b> COLORS	<b>VC'S JOE SABINO</b> LETTERER
<b>NICK BRADSHAW &amp; FRANK MARTIN</b> COVER	<b>JORDAN D. WHITE</b> EDITOR	<b>NICK LOWE</b> SENIOR EDITOR	
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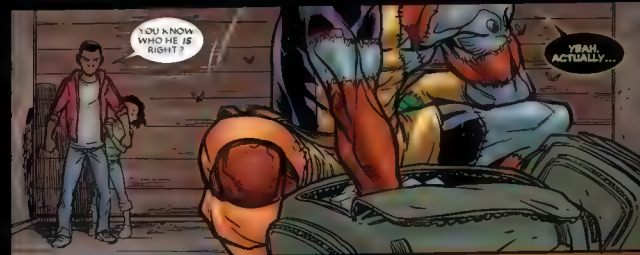
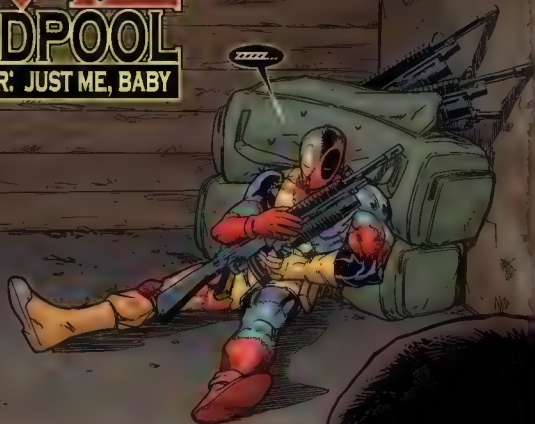
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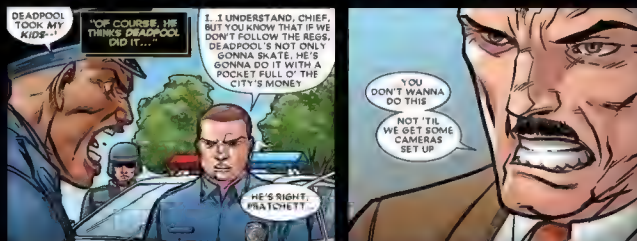


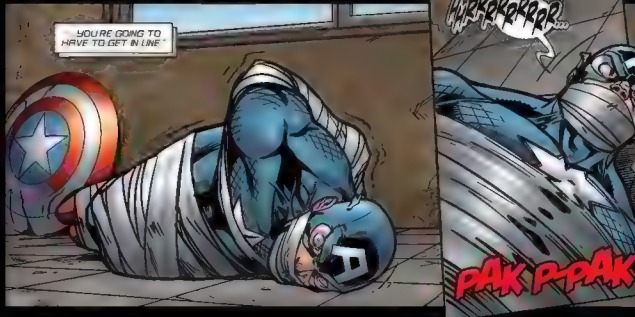
# EVIL DEADPOOL

PART FOUR: JUST ME, BABY

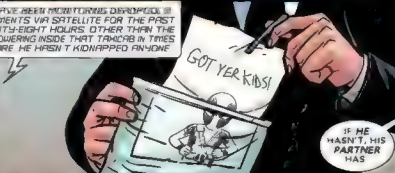
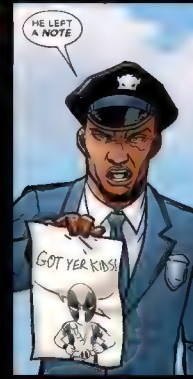
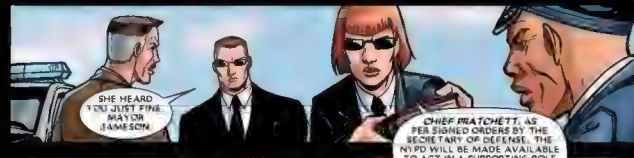
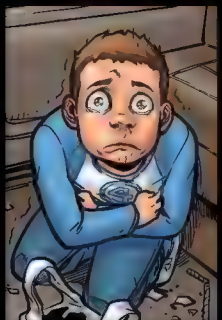
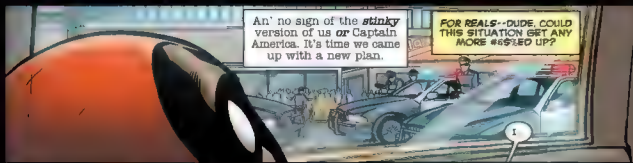


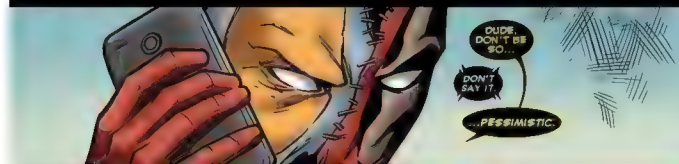
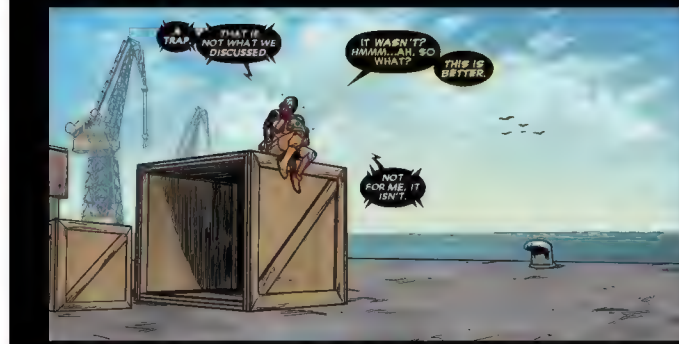
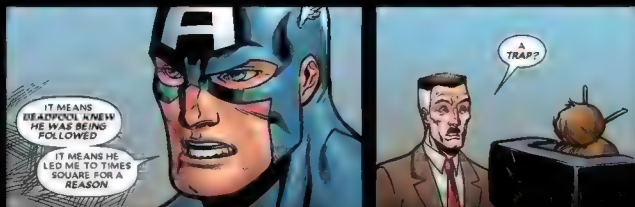
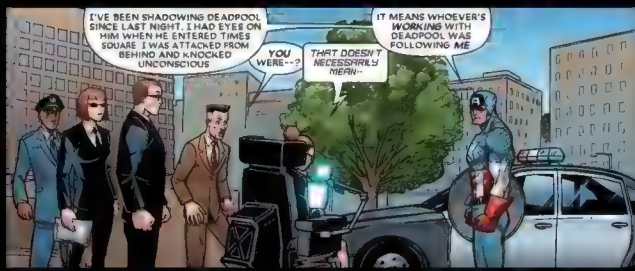




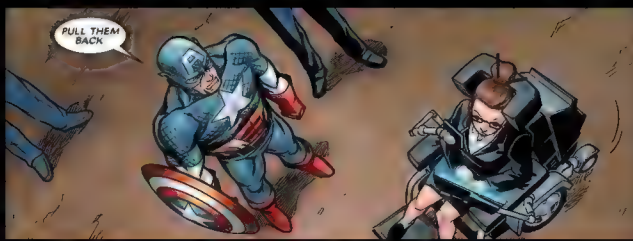


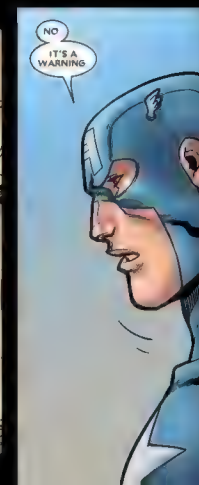
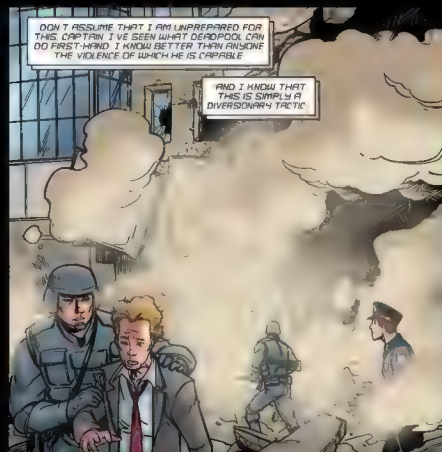
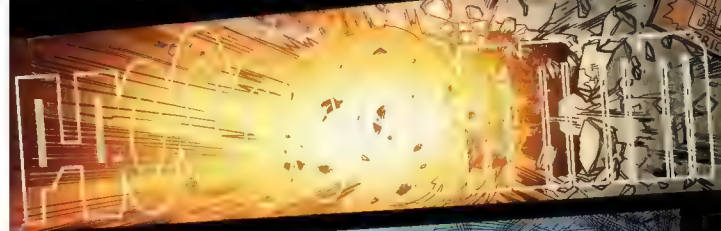
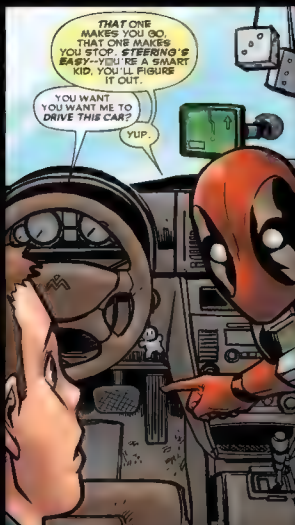






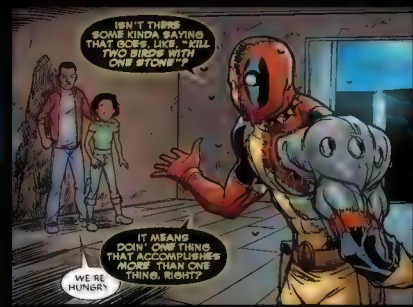
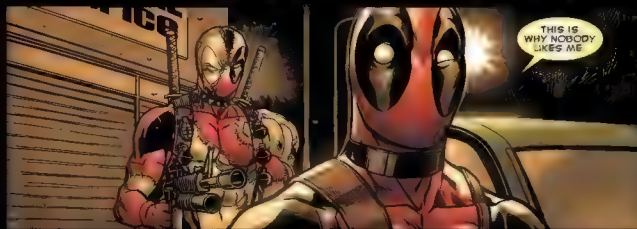
















# NEXT MONTH



# 'POOL PARTY

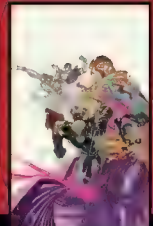
01/11/12

MORE 'POOL!



MATURE AUDIENCES ONLY

DEADPOOL MAX II #3  
ON SALE NOW!



UNCANNY X-FORCE #19  
ON SALE NOW!



UNCANNY X-FORCE #19  
01/04/12

MARVEL

49

WAY  
ESPIN  
GURU & FX

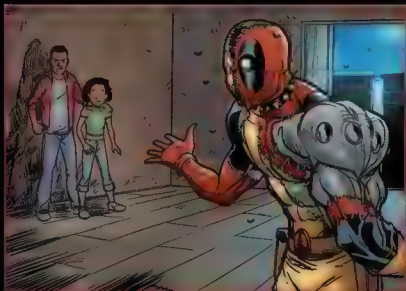
# EVIL DEADPOOL

CONCLUSION





# DEADPOOL



<b>DANIEL WAY</b> WRITER	<b>SALVA ESPIN</b> with <b>SCOTT KOBLISH</b> ARTIST	<b>GURU FX</b> COLORS	<b>VC'S JOE SABINO</b> LETTERER
<b>STEGMAN, BABINSKI &amp; GRACIA</b> COVER	<b>JORDAN D. WHITE</b> EDITOR	<b>NICK LOWE</b> SENIOR EDITOR	
<b>AXEL ALONSO</b> EDITOR IN CHIEF	<b>JOE QUESADA</b> EXECUTIVE EDITOR	<b>DAN BUCGAST</b> PUBLISHER	<b>ALAN FINE</b> EXEC. PRODUC.

[illegible]

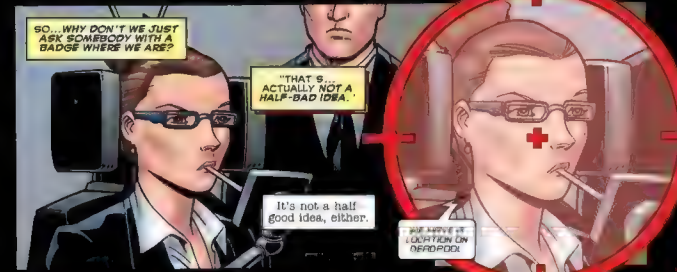
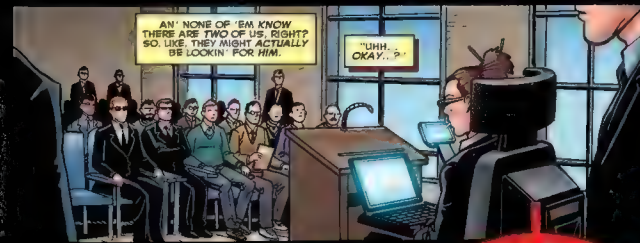
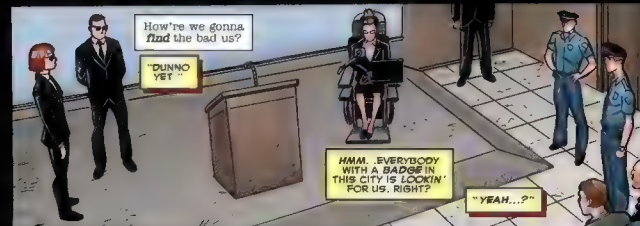
To find MARVEL COMICS at a local comic and hobby shop, go to [www.comicshoplocator.com](http://www.comicshoplocator.com) or call 1-888-COMICBOOK



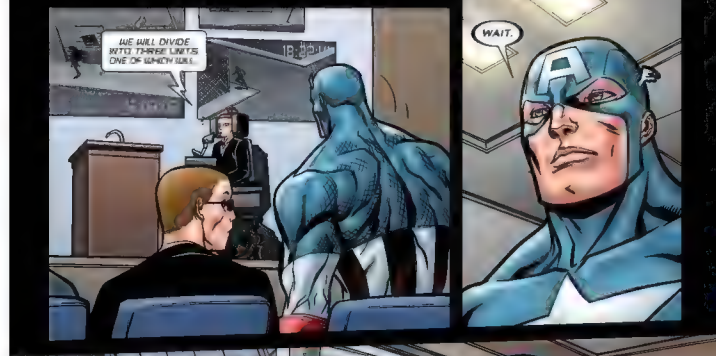
# EVIL DEADPOOL

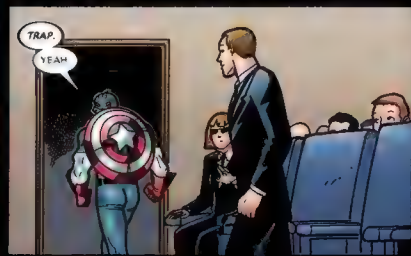
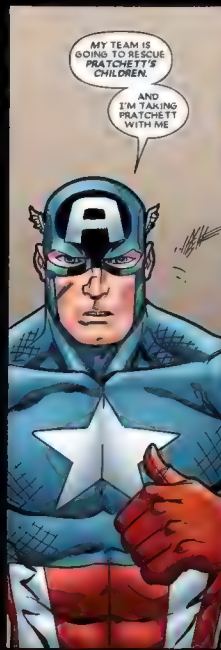
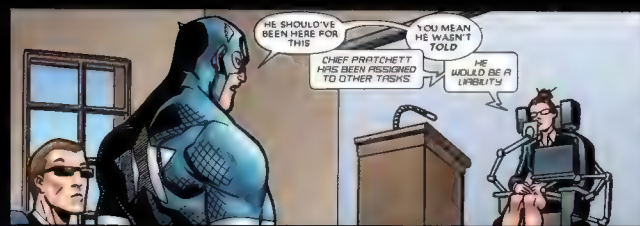
## CONCLUSION: HAIL TO THE KING, BABY

NOW IT'S  
TIME FOR YOU  
TO LEARN A  
LESSON.













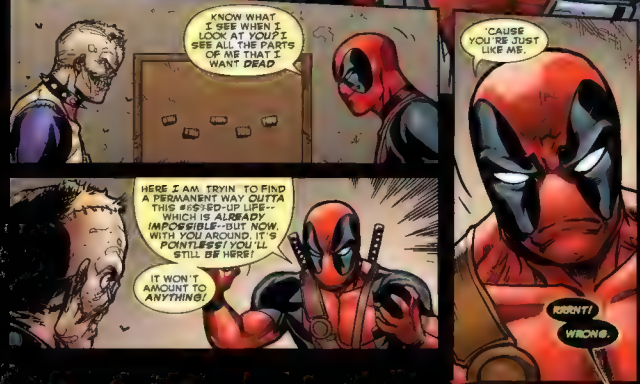
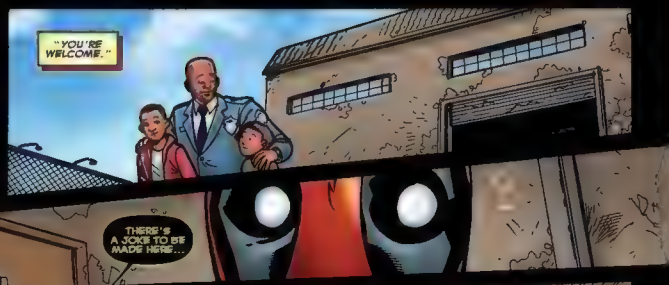


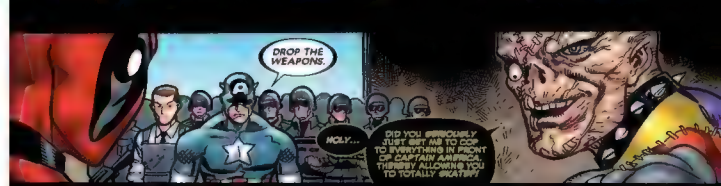
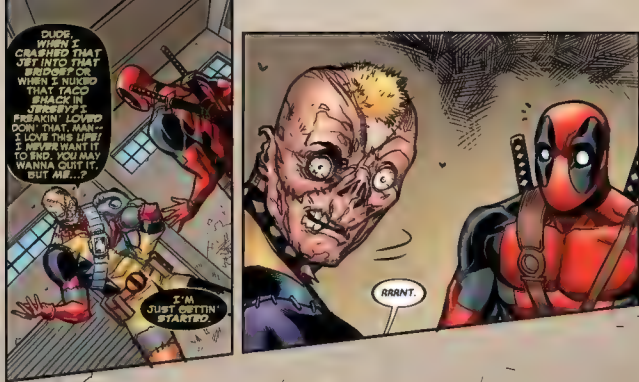




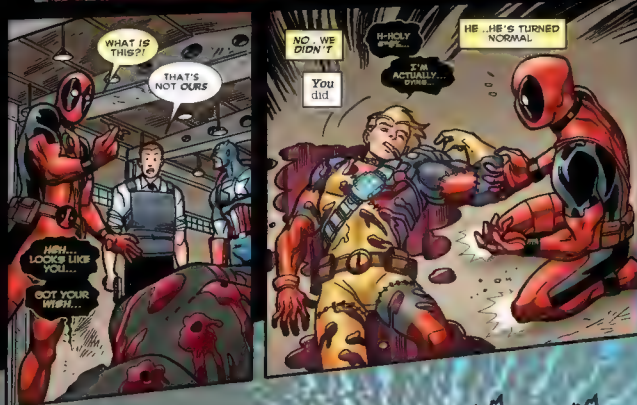












# NEXT MONTH

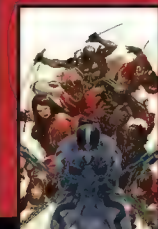


**DEADPOOL #49.1:  
THE MUSICAL!**  
01/11/12

MORE POOL!



DEADPOOL MAX II #4  
01/18/12



UNCANNY X-FORCE #20  
01/18/12



DEADPOOL #50  
02/08/12

MARVEL

1

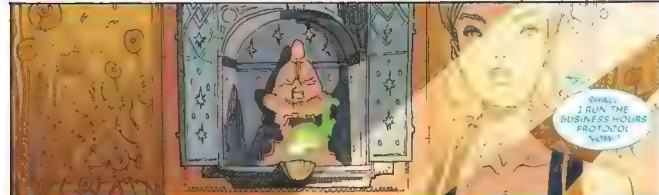
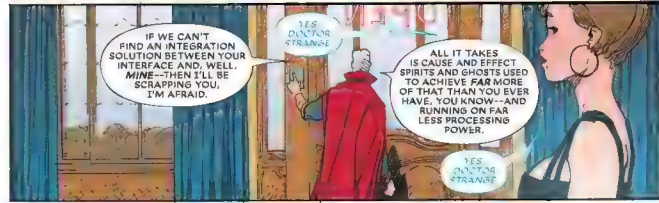
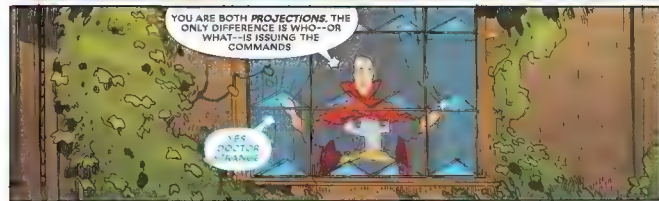
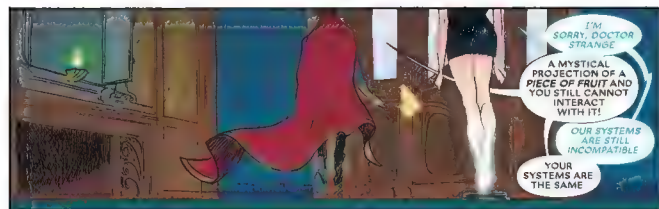
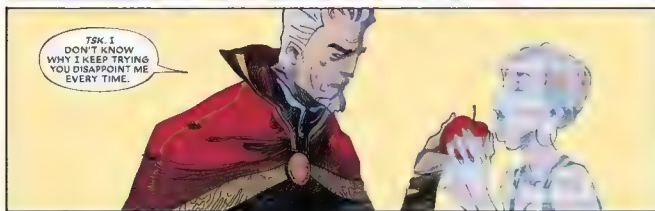
WILLIAMS  
ANDRADE  
O'HALLORAN

THE END

# DOCTOR STRANGE

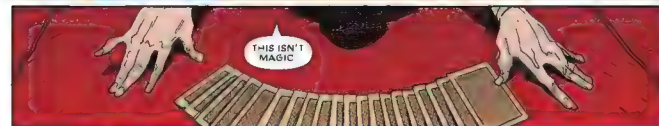
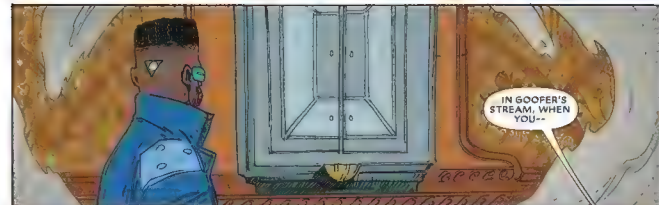
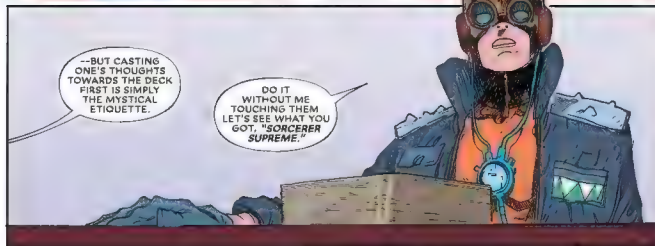
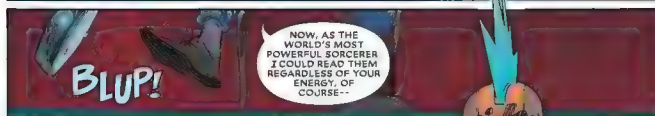


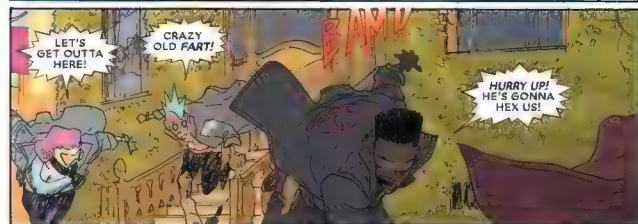
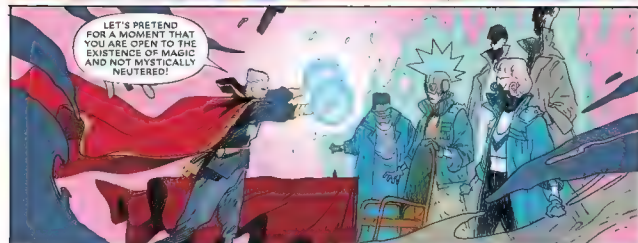
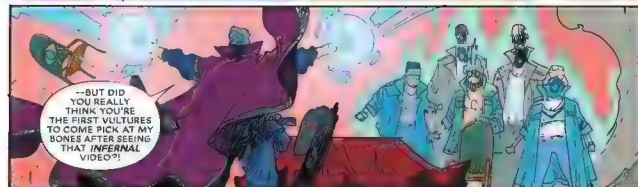
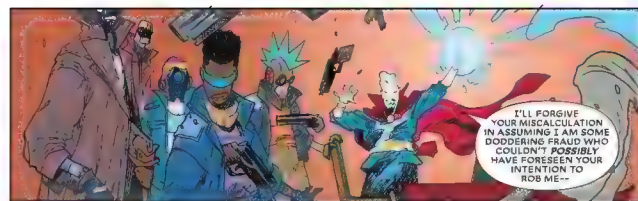
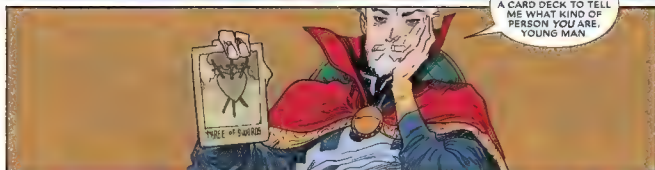
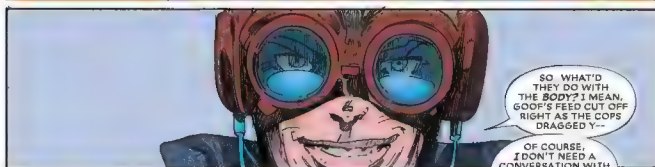
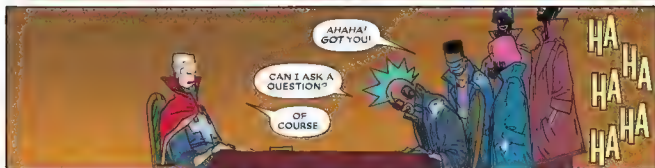
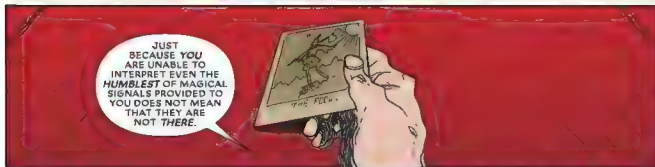












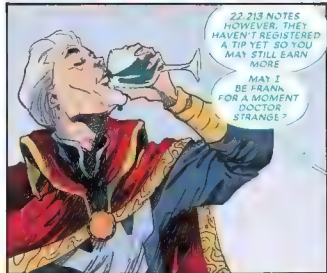




DID YOU SCAN THEIR CREDIT? THEY LEFT IN SUCH A HURRY. I WASN'T SURE YOU'D HAVE TIME.

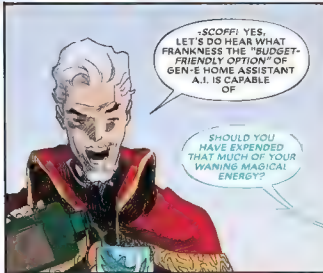
YES, DOCTOR STRANGE.

AND? HOW MUCH?



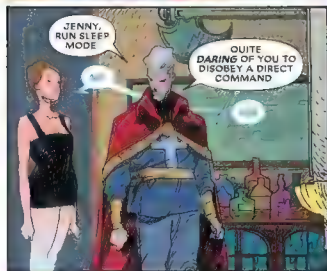
22,213 NOTES. HOWEVER, THEY HAVEN'T REGISTERED A TIP YET, SO YOU MAY STILL EARN MORE.

MAY I BE FRANK FOR A MOMENT, DOCTOR STRANGE?



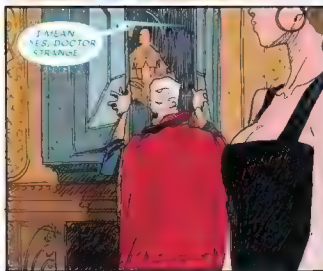
SCOFF. YES, LET'S DO HEAR WHAT FRANKNESS THE "BUDGET-FRIENDLY" OPTION OF GEN-E HOME ASSISTANT A.I. IS CAPABLE OF.

SHOULD YOU HAVE EXPENDED THAT MUCH OF YOUR WAXING MAGICAL ENERGY?

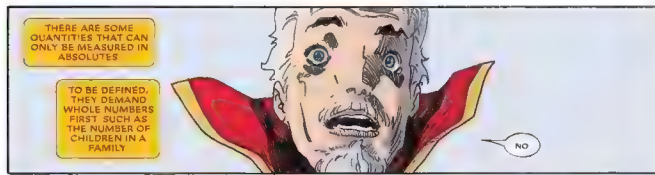
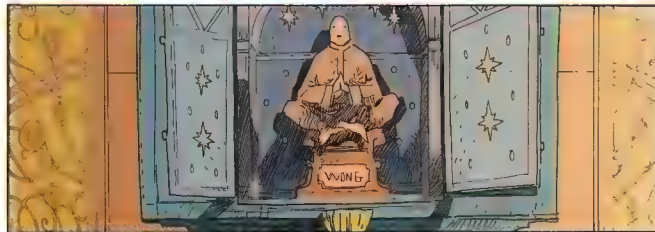


JENNY, RUN SLEEP MODE.

QUITE DARING OF YOU TO DISOBEY A DIRECT COMMAND.



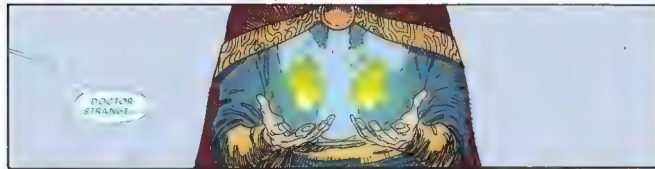
I AM AN YES, DOCTOR STRANGE.



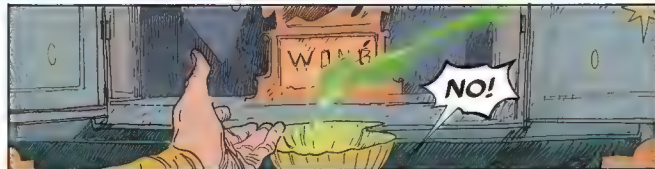
THERE ARE SOME QUANTITIES THAT CAN ONLY BE MEASURED IN ABSOLUTES.

TO BE DEFINED, THEY DEMAND WHOLE NUMBERS FIRST, SUCH AS THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN IN A FAMILY.

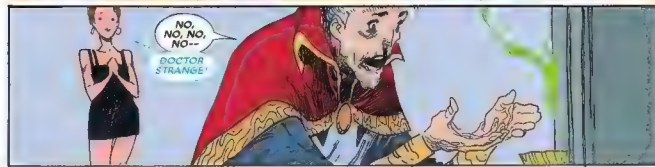
NO.



DOCTOR STRANGE.



NO!



NO, NO, NO, NO.

DOCTOR STRANGE.



NO! NO! NO! YET, YOU VOID-DAMNED FORCES OF ETERNITY--

STEPHEN!



NO! I WILL NOT BE NAGGED BY A DEVICE ON MYSTICAL MATTERS! YOU HAVE NO IDEA WHAT'S HAPPENING HERE!

YOU PROGRAMMED ME TO ANSWER!

OR THE DOWDLING MEMBERS OF A DOOMED SPECIES.

RUNNING...LASTSorc

YOU  
ARE DOCTOR  
STEPHEN STRANGE  
THE SORCERER  
SUPREME

SORCERER.TXT...

YOU ARE  
THE LAST LIVING  
MYSTIC

YOU NOW  
SUFFER DIMINISHING  
RETURNS ON MAGICAL  
ENERGY. EACH TIME  
YOU EXPEND YOUR  
OWN

THIS IS BECAUSE WITHOUT A POPULATION OF  
SORCERERS, MYSTICS AND WITCHES TO AID  
YOU IN THE NOURISHING AND SUSTAINING  
BALANCE OF MAGICAL ENERGY, AS THE  
WORLD'S SOLE REMAINING PRACTITIONER  
OF MAGIC, Y...

THAT'S  
ENOUGH  
JENNY

YES  
DOCTOR  
STRANGE

DOCTOR  
STRANGE... WOULD  
IT BE HELPFUL IF I  
MAYBE

ADJUSTED  
MY OPTICS TO  
SOMETHING YOU'D  
ENJOY SEEING  
MORE

GODS, N  
YOU...

I DO  
ACTUALLY CARE  
ABOUT YOU, STEPHEN.  
ALL I WANT TO DO  
IS BE HELPFUL.

JENNY, WHAT  
IS THE NAME OF  
THE MYSTICAL FLAME  
I'D BEEN KEEPING  
ALIVE IN HERE?

YOU  
NEVER TOLD  
ME.

CORRECT! I  
DID NOT. I DID TELL  
JILYANA, HOWEVER--MY  
FORMER PUPIL WHOSE  
VISAGE YOU'RE  
WEARING

WHEN I  
TURN BACK  
AROUND, YOU WILL  
LOOK LIKE YOUR  
FACTORY DEFAULT  
INTERFACE.  
JENNY

AND  
JENNY? RUN SLEEP  
MODE.

THE COMMAND  
WAS JUST A FINAL  
KINDNESS, BUT FINE.  
THEN, STAY AWAKE  
TO WATCH

I CARE  
ABOUT YOU,  
STEPHEN! I  
JUST WANT  
TO HELP!

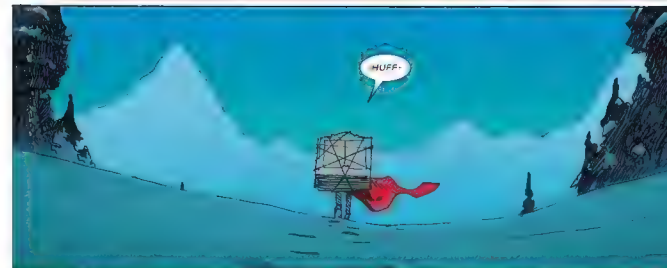
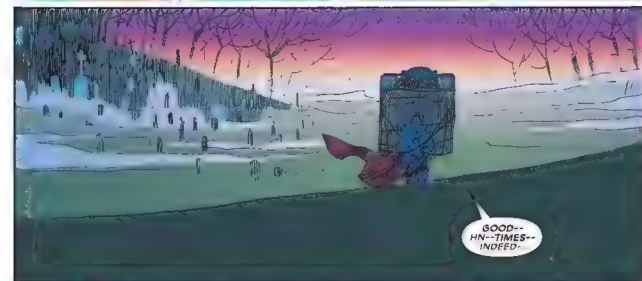
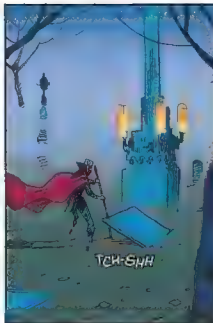
ONLY BECAUSE  
FOR SOME BLIGHTED  
REASON I DECIDED TO  
CHECK "YES" WHEN YOUR  
INTRODUCTORY MODE  
ASKED FOR THOSE  
PERMISSIONS!







\*IN MEMORY OF RICARDO TÉRCIO, A FRIEND, AN AMAZING ARTIST BUT ABOVE ALL, A UNIQUE HUMAN BEING, WE MISS YOU!





WHY DID THE ANCIENT PURVEYORS OF THE ARCAIC NEVER HIDE MYSTICAL RESOURCES IN THE TROPICS?

WHY IS IT ALWAYS "FROZEN TUNDRA" THIS OR "BOTTOM OF A CELESTIAL OCEAN" THAT?

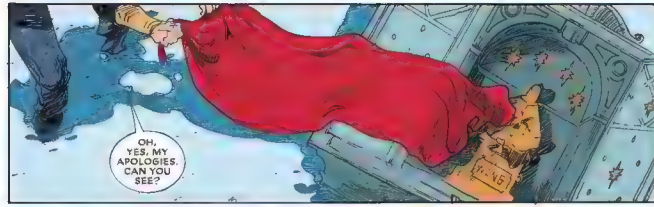
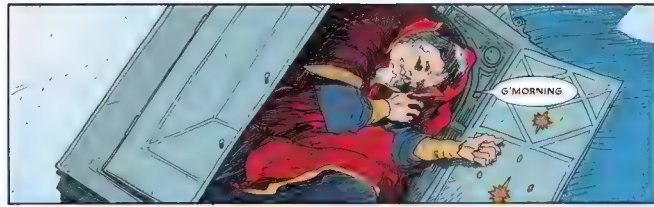
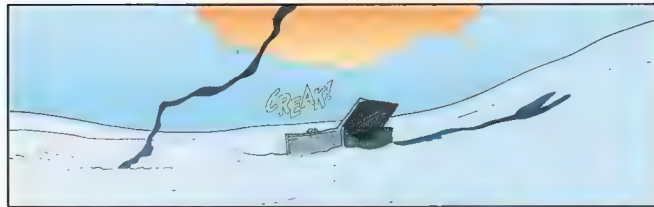
MAYBE IF WE HADN'T WORKED SO HARD AT HIDING OUR MYSTICAL RESOURCES FROM EACH OTHER, WE WOULDN'T HAVE ALL DIED OUT JUST A THOUGHT

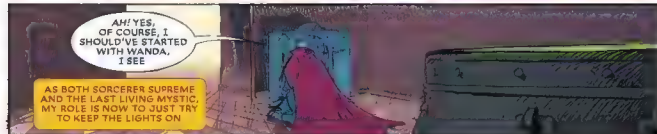
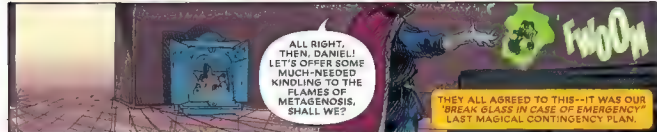
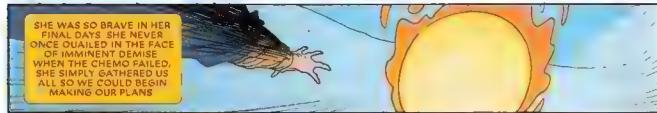
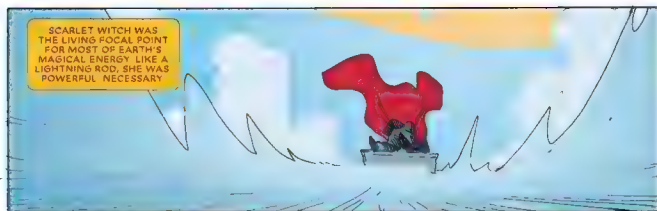
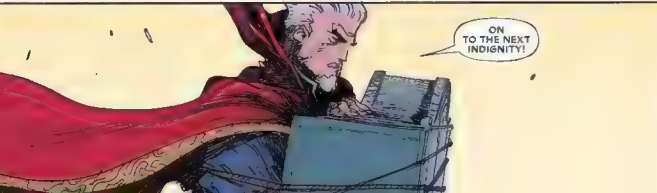
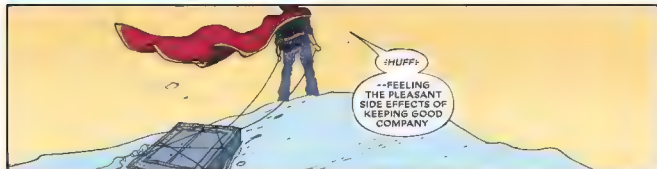
YES, I KNOW SHE'S THEORETICALLY STILL ALIVE OUT THERE! THANK YOU, WONG!

I'M SORRY FOR SNAPPING AT YOU. I KNOW YOU'RE JUST TRYING TO BE HELPFUL

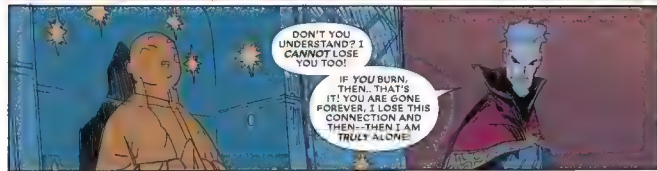
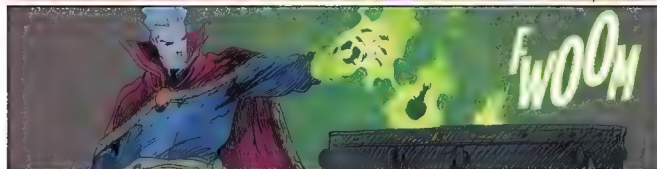
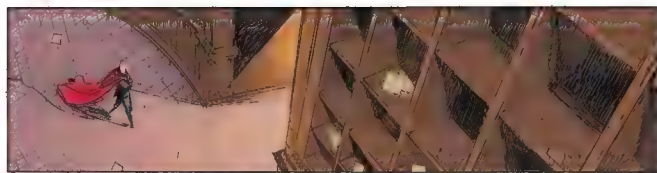
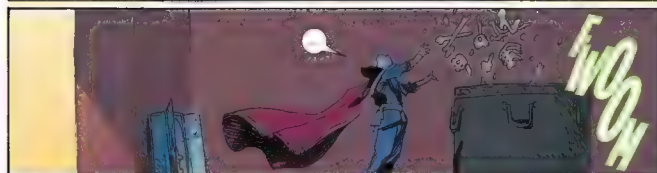
YOU KNOW, WONG. IF YOU WEREN'T FULL OF THE BONES OF OUR FRIENDS AND PEERS AT THE MOMENT, I MIGHT SERIOUSLY CONSIDER ACTUALLY TRYING TO SLEEP INSIDE YOUR RETABLO TONIGHT

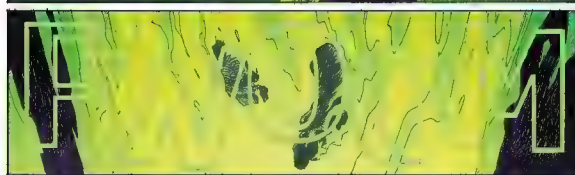
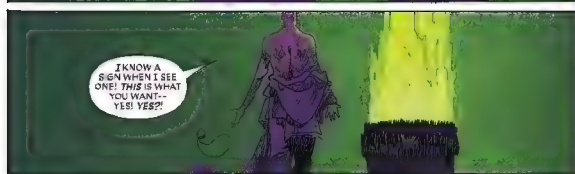
IT'S FREEZING OUT HERE











IF THERE'S A PSYCHIC TRANSCRIBER OUT THERE SOMEWHERE WHO JUST SO HAPPENS TO BE RECORDING MY LAST THOUGHTS, THEN PLEASE LET THE RECORD SHOW THAT MY DEPARTURE FROM THIS WORLD WAS IN PRECISELY THE SAME MANNER THAT I EXPECTED IN IT.



I HAD BEEN CONSERVING MY MYSTICAL ENERGY FOR SO LONG THAT UPON DEATH IT SHOT OUT OF ME WITH BUSTLING SPEED AND TORE THROUGH THE MASSES.

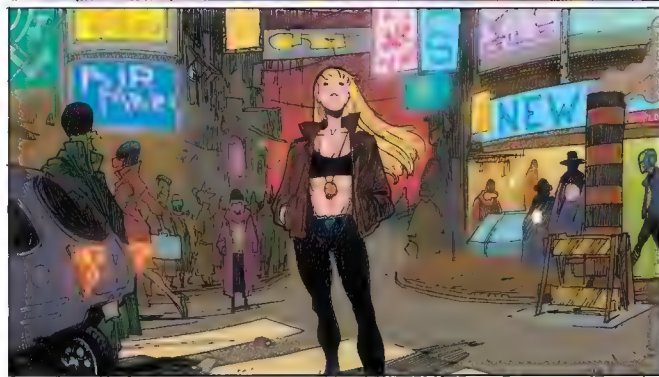
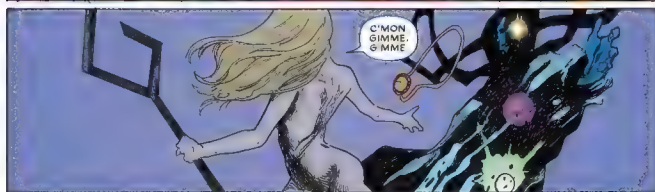
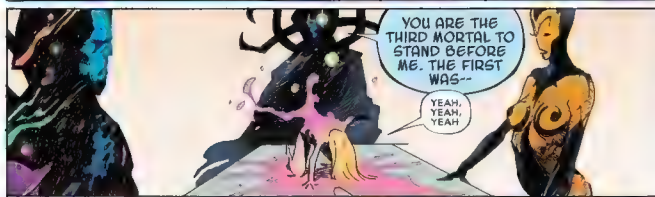
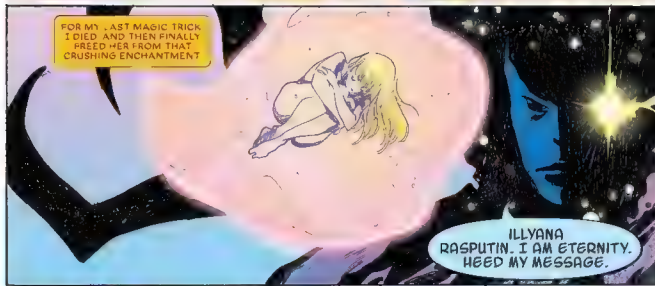
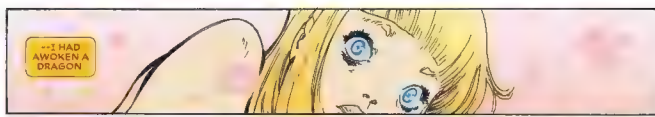
BEFORE I GRATEFULLY SAUNTERED INTO THE CRUCIBLE OF VOID'S EMBRACE, I FELT THE WORLD CHANGE AND CHANGING.

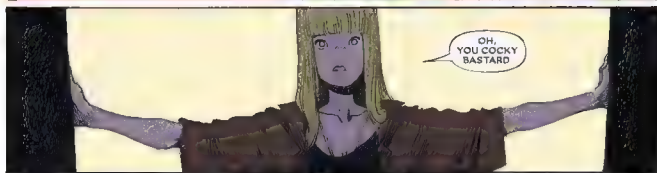
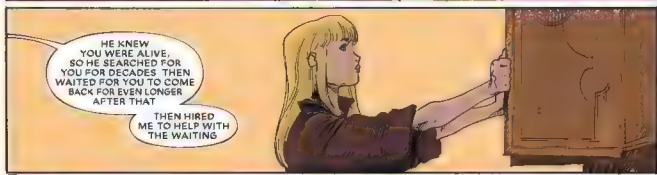
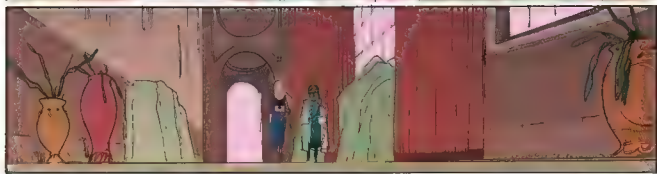
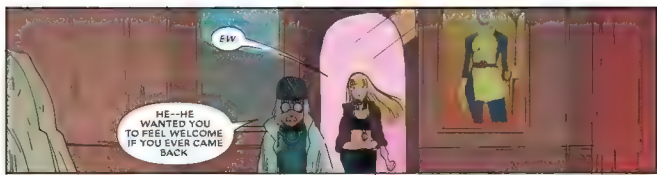
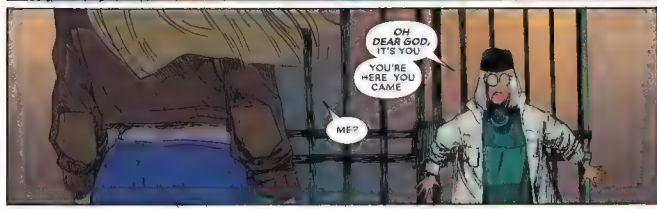
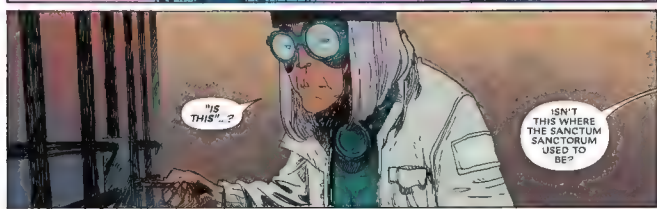
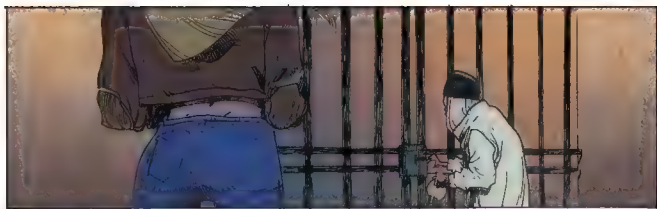
DEATH IS QUITE LOVELY. IN AFFAIR TIME EDGES SENT A LAPP NO FORWARD AND BACK AND A FLIGHT NO YOU ONWARD INTO INFINITY.

IT RED SUBTUTES THE FUTURE YOU WERE BLIND AND NOW YOU SEE.

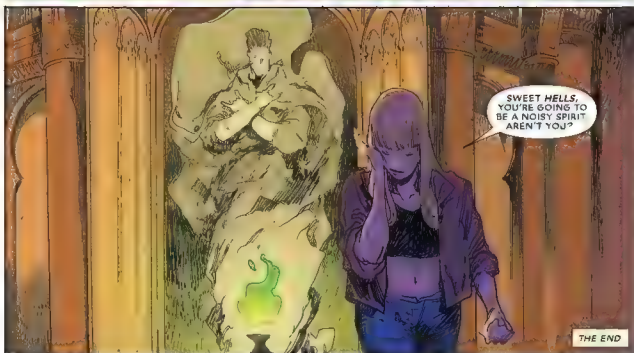
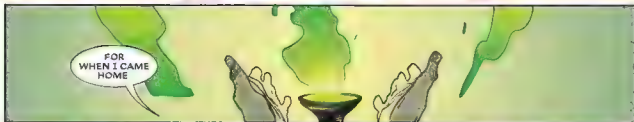
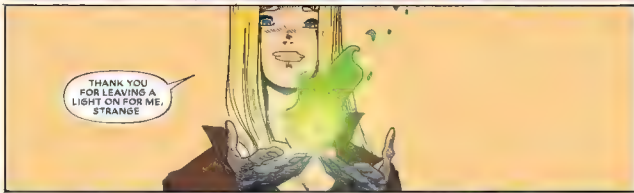
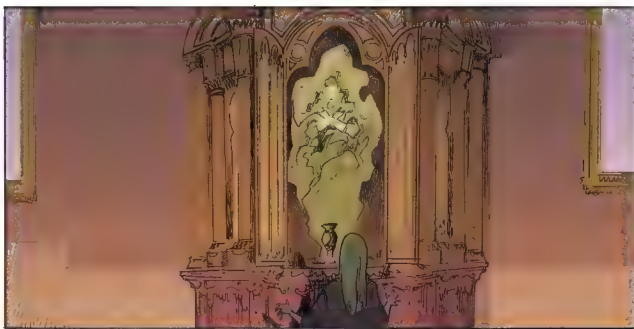
THE LAST THING I EVER KNEW IN A FIRM CERTAINTY WAS THAT SOMEWHERE IN THE TEE TOTALING COSMOS OUT WHERE OYERS ORAL, WE'RE ARE STILL LIVING AND THINKING.











THE END

# DOCTOR STRANGE

LEAH WILLIAMS  
WRITER

FILIPPE ANDRADE  
ARTIST

CHRIS O'HALLORAN  
COLOR ARTIST

VC's CLAYTON COWLES  
LETTERER

RAHZZAH COVER ARTIST

FILIPPE ANDRADE VARIANT COVER ARTIST

CHRIS ROBINSON EDITOR

JORDAN D. WHITE SENIOR EDITOR

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MARVEL

1

MICHELINIE  
FIORELLI  
VALENZA

BRAINS ARE BACK ON THE MENU!

# VENOM

LETHAL PROTECTOR





NEW YORK CITY  
FOUR YEARS AGO

WE  
SAID...

PHHHHT

...LEAVE...

KTANG

...US...

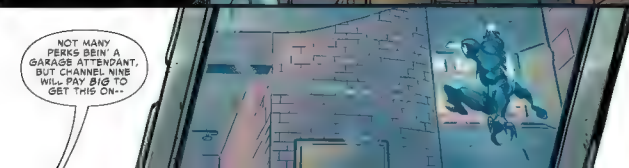
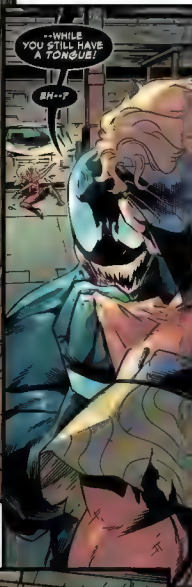
THWIPT

...ALONE!

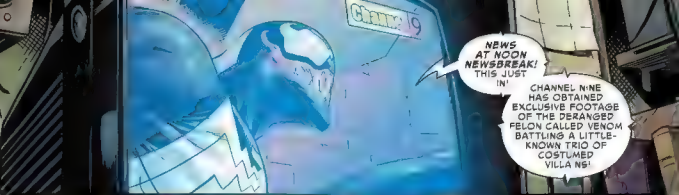
## DEMONS OCCULTATUM

DAVID MICHELINIE WRITER IVAN FORELLI ARTIST  
BRYAN VALENZA COLORIST VC'S TRAVIS LANHAM LETTERS  
DEVIN LEWIS EDITOR TOM GRONEMAN ASSOCIATE EDITOR  
DANNY KHAZEM ASSISTANT EDITOR

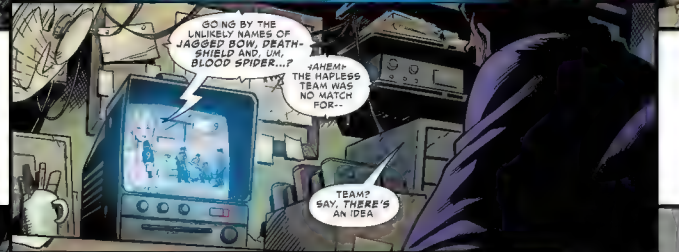








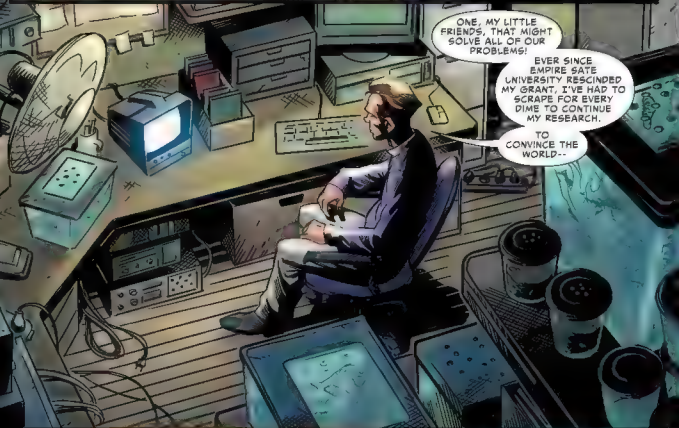
NEWS  
AT NOON  
NEWSBREAK!  
THIS JUST  
IN!  
CHANNEL NINE  
HAS OBTAINED  
EXCLUSIVE FOOTAGE  
OF THE DERANGED  
FELON CALLED VENOM  
BATTUING A LITTLE-  
KNOWN TRIO OF  
COSTUMED  
VILLAINS!



SONGS BY THE  
UNLIKELY NAMES OF  
JAGGED BOW, DEATH-  
SHIELD AND, UM,  
BLOOD SPIDER...?

HAHEM!  
THE WARLESS  
TEAM WAS  
NO MATCH  
FOR...

TEAM?  
SAY, THERE'S  
AN IDEA



ONE, MY LITTLE  
FRIENDS, THAT MIGHT  
SOLVE ALL OF OUR  
PROBLEMS!  
EVER SINCE  
EMPIRE STATE  
UNIVERSITY RESCINDED  
MY GRANT, I'VE HAD TO  
SCRAPE FOR EVERY  
DIME TO CONTINUE  
MY RESEARCH.  
TO  
CONVINCE THE  
WORLD--



--THAT  
INSECTS ARE  
THE KEYS TO  
THE FUTURE!  
MY THEORIES  
COULD PROVIDE  
SO MANY ADVANCES  
MEDICINE, AGRICULTURE,  
EVEN...DARE I SAY...  
COMPANIONSHIP

TAP  
TAP



AND WITH MY NEWLY  
PERFECTED CREATION,  
THE TRANS-SPECIES  
LINSUITRON, WE'LL  
EVEN BE ABLE TO  
COMMUNICATE!

BUT  
FIRST  
MONEY

MY EFFORTS  
TO OBTAIN  
FUNDING HAVE  
FAILED, LEFT ME  
ON PAROLE IN  
THIS PITIFUL  
NOVEL.

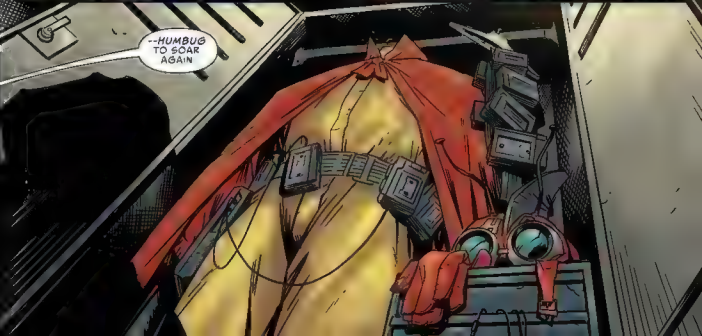
BUT IF I SEE  
MY NOBLE QUEST  
AS A JOB... I MEAN,  
MEMBERS OF TEAMS  
GET PAID, DON'T  
THEY? FOOTBALL,  
BASEBALL?

I DON'T  
KNOW WHY I  
NEVER THOUGHT  
OF THIS  
BEFORE!

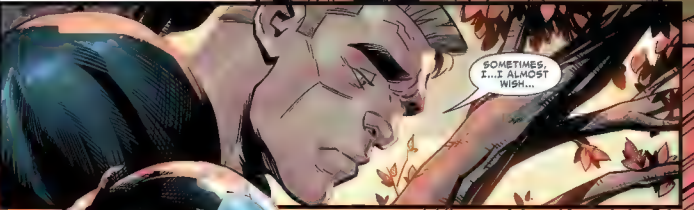
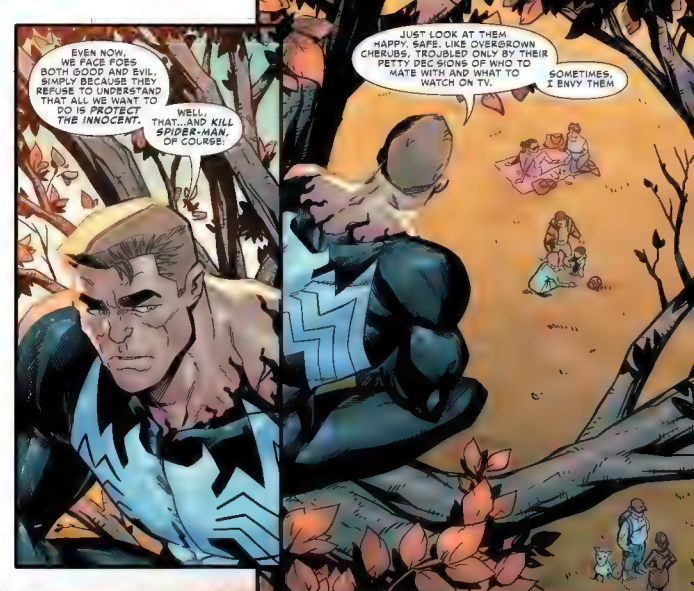
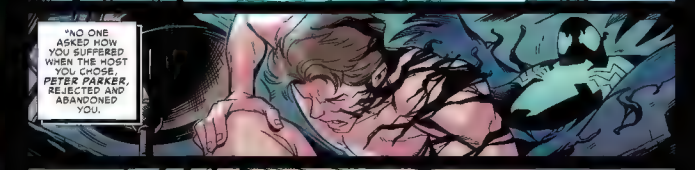
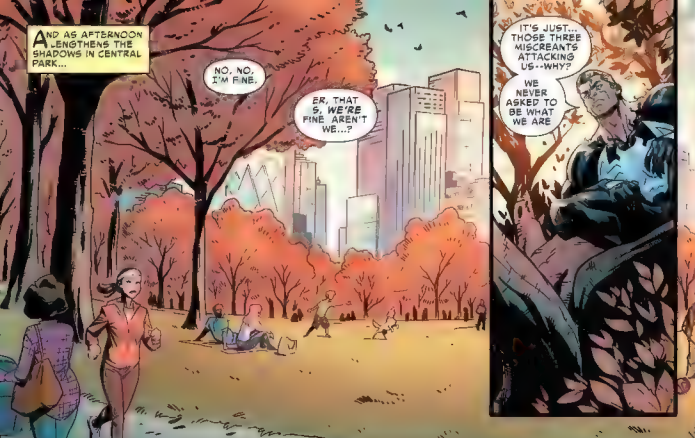


PERHAPS  
IT'S TIME FOR  
PROFESSOR  
BUCK KITTY  
TO SWALLOW HIS PRIDE  
AND SEEK GAINFUL  
EMPLOYMENT.

TIME  
FOR--



--HUMBUG  
TO SOAR  
AGAIN













THUS DOES EVENING  
DEEPEN INTO NIGHT.  
RAIN TURNS TO DRIZZLE...

AS ON LIBERTY ISLAND  
TROUBLED THOUGHTS  
TURN TO THE PAST

BEAUTIFUL  
ISN'T IT?

PEOPLE  
GIVE NEW YORK  
A BAD RAP, BUT  
EVERYONE STILL  
WANTS TO  
LIVE HERE.

USED  
TO BE MY  
TURF, Y'KNOW  
MY TURF, MY  
PEOPLE

HAD A GOOD  
JOB, FRIENDS,  
THE RESPECT OF  
MY PEERS.

HAD A WIFE TOO.  
EVEN A  
DOG

NO COMMENTS?  
NO ADVICE? WHAT'S  
THE MATTER--CAT  
GOT YOUR  
TONGUE?

I SHUDDER  
TO THINK  
WHAT WOULD  
HAPPEN TO  
THAT CAT!

SO WHAT  
DO I HAVE NOW?  
LOSERS ATTACKING ME  
FOR NO REASON? LIVING  
IN SUBWAY TUNNELS  
AND BUILDINGS  
SCHEDULED FOR  
DEMOLITION?

PLUS, THE  
OPEN WOUND  
OF KNOWING THAT  
WEB-SLINGING BETRAYER  
IS FREE TO ENJOY ALL  
THE THINGS THAT  
HAVE BEEN TAKEN  
FROM ME?

SO WHY DON'T YOU TRY  
IT? TELL ME ABOUT YOUR  
HOMELAND. WHAT DID  
YOU DO FOR FUN?  
DID YOU HAVE A  
GIRLFRIEND?

BOYFRIEND?

PARAKEET...?

NOT KEEPING  
IT ALL TO  
YOURSELF?

OKAY.

OH, I  
GET IT. JEALOUS  
BECAUSE I'M SAYING  
"ME" INSTEAD  
OF "WE."

IS IT MY FAULT  
THAT I HAD ANOTHER  
LIFE BEFORE US THAT I  
SOMETIMES CAN'T HELP...  
REMEMBERING?

HAVE IT  
YOUR WAY, THEN.  
AS FOR ME, I NEED  
SOMEONE ELSE  
TO TALK TO.

CAN'T  
GO AROUND  
TALKING TO  
MYSELF  
CAN I?

THAT  
WOULD BE  
CRAZY!

PLIP

HEY!  
WH-WHAT WAS  
THAT?!

JUST AN  
UPKRAFT. EARL,  
POMT BE SUCH  
A WUSS!

AND SOON, AT A WELL-KEPT TOWNHOUSE NEAR NEW YORK'S GRAMERCY PARK...

SUNSHINE  
ON MY SHOULDER  
MAKES ME  
HAP--

HEY  
BABE

WASP?  
EDDIE?!

H-HOW  
DID YOU--?

YOU  
ALWAYS WERE  
TOO TRUSTING,  
ANNIE. HOW MANY  
TIMES DID I TELL  
YOU TO LOCK  
THE DOORS?

B-BUT  
THE POLICE--!  
YOU SHOULDN'T  
BE HERE!

NO, THIS IS  
EXACTLY  
WHERE I  
SHOULD  
BE.

IF I  
HADN'T GONE  
OFF THE DEEP END,  
HAD YOUR LIFE  
AS MISERABLE  
AS MY OWN...

WE HAD SOME  
GOOD TIMES, ANNIE.  
DIDN'T WE?  
REMEMBER?

YEAH,  
EDDIE. SOME  
OF THE  
BEST.  
AND I  
MISS THEM  
TOO.

BUT YOU HAVE TO  
UNDERSTAND WE CAN'T  
GO BACK. THINGS HAVE  
CHANGED. YOU'VE  
CHANGED!  
AND  
I...I'M...

YO,  
ANNIE! CAB'S  
HERE! YOU  
READY?

J-JUST  
ABOUT, ALLEN!  
I'LL BE RIGHT  
DOWN.

EDDIE...?

C'MON,  
HON. METER'S  
RUNNING.

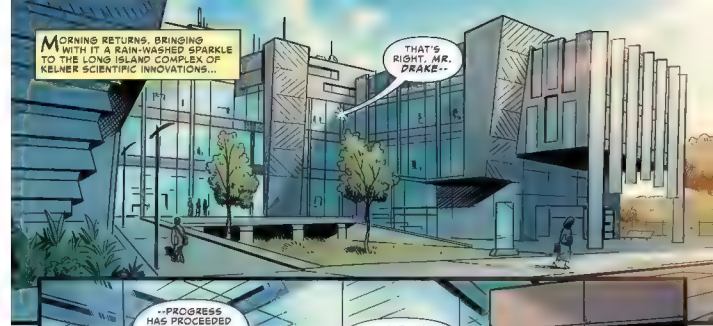
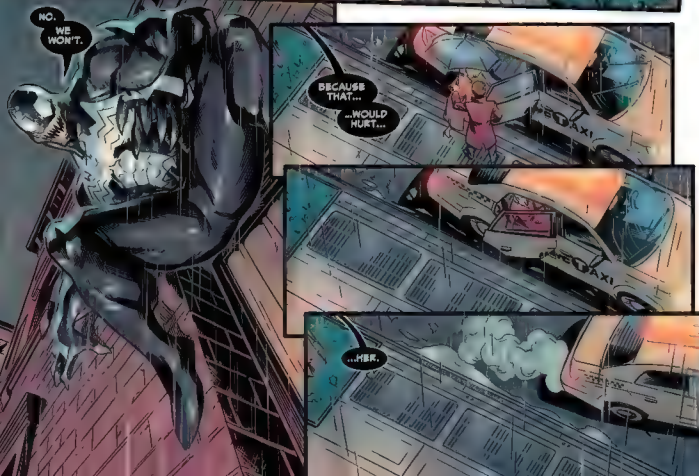
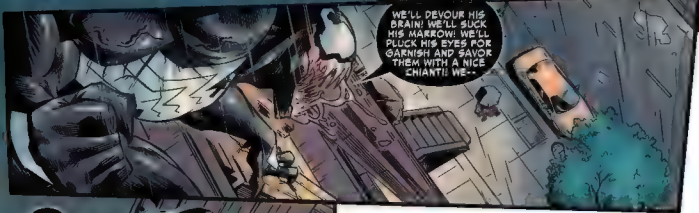
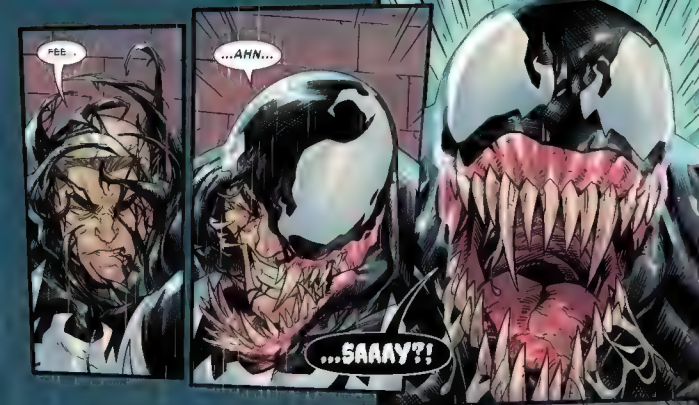
I EVEN  
GRABBED AN  
UMBRELLA SO YOU  
WON'T GET THAT  
MILLION-DOLLAR  
HARDO WET!

THAT'S  
SWEET, ALLEN. YOU  
WIN THE GOLD FOR  
THOUGHTFULNESS.

OF  
COURSE

ISN'T  
THAT WHAT  
A FIANCE  
IS FOR?





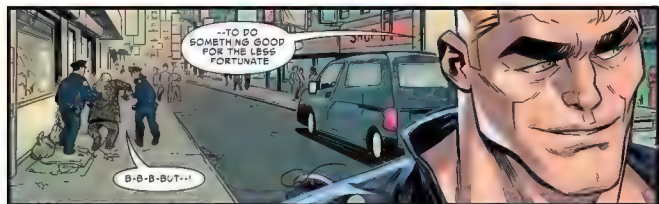
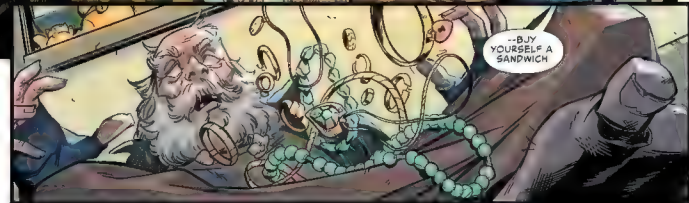




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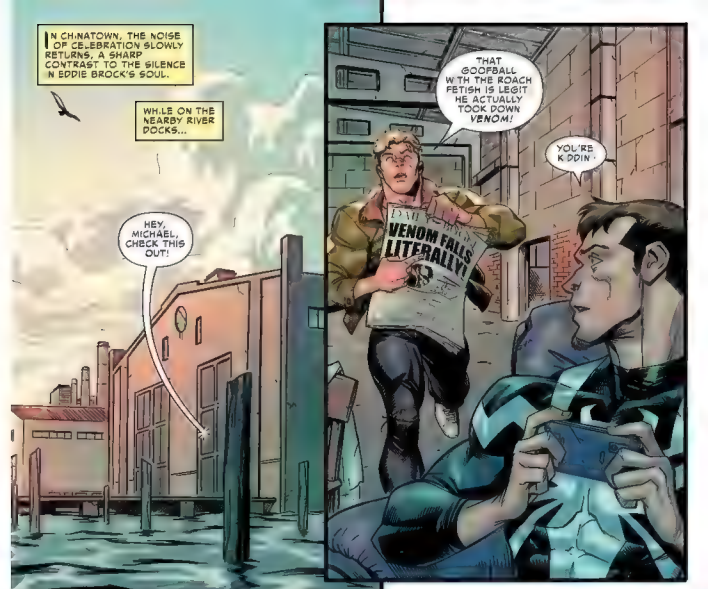
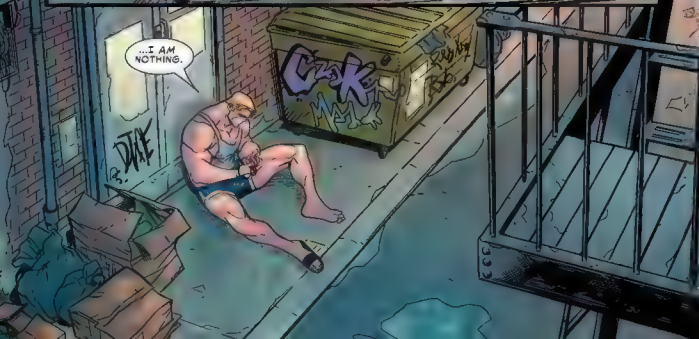






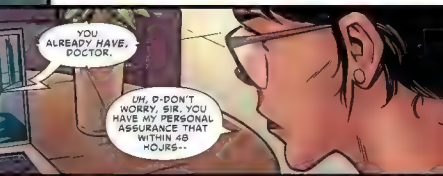
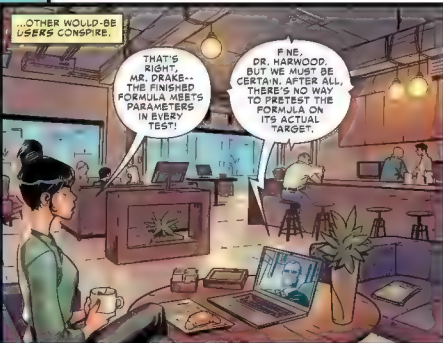








WHILE ON LONG ISLAND, AT KELLER SCIENTIFIC INNOVATIONS...



--VENOM  
WILL BE YOURS TO  
COMMAND!

TO BE CONTINUED!

EDDIE BROCK WAS ONCE A RESPECTED JOURNALIST, BUT HIS CAREER WAS DESTROYED WHEN ONE OF HIS SOURCES WAS EXPOSED AS A FRAUD BY SPIDER-MAN. DISGRACED, BROCK WENT TO HIS NEIGHBORHOOD CHURCH TO ASK FORGIVENESS BEFORE TAKING HIS OWN LIFE. UNWARE THAT AN EXTRATERRESTRIAL PARASITE WAS IN THE PARISH'S BELL TOWER, SPINNED AND LEFT FOR DEAD BY THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN, THE CREATURE CHOSE BROCK AS ITS HOST. IN THE PROCESS, IT IMBUED HIM WITH ALL OF SPIDER-MAN'S ABILITIES AND MORE: POWERS OF ABBESSKIN, ORGANIC WEB-SHOOTERS ON THE BACK OF EACH HAND AND PREHENSILE TENNIBLS WOVEN FROM THE CREATURE'S OWN BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL. ON A TWISTED CRUSADE AND OBSESSED WITH JUSTICE, THEY ARE:

# VENOM

## LETHAL PROTECTOR



DAVID MICHELINIE WRITER  
IVAN FIORELLI ARTIST  
BRYAN VALENZA COLOR ARTIST  
VC'S TRAVIS LANHAM LETTERER  
PAULO SIQUEIRA & MATTHEW WILSON COVER ARTISTS

BILL SIENKIEWICZ; DAVID NAKAYAMA; FRANCESCO MANNA AND EDGAR DELGADO; SKAN  
VARIANT COVER ARTISTS

DANNY KHAZEM ASSISTANT EDITOR  
TOM GRONEMAN ASSOCIATE EDITOR  
DEVIN LEWIS EDITOR  
C.B. CEBULSKI EDITOR IN CHIEF

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HELLO, VENOMANIACS! And welcome to VENOM: LETHAL PROTECTOR! This is a book that is very near and dear to my heart, as I'm sure it will one day be to yours!

The first VENOM: LETHAL PROTECTOR was the character's first self-titled comic book series, and it is one of my favorite comics EVER! Written by David Michelinie and with art by Mark Bagley and Ron Lim, LETHAL was the culmination of everything Venom had been to that point: intense, over the top and scary! It's a Marvel classic, and if you haven't read it already, what are you WAITING FOR?! Go get it right now, and treat yourself to a FORMATIVE and terrific VENOM story!

That's part of what makes this new volume of LETHAL PROTECTOR particularly exciting--it gives us the special opportunity to revisit the earliest days of the character's history. And who better to spin that yarn than Venom co-creator David Michelinie?! Longtime Venom fans will recognize David's name instantly, as he and illustrator Todd McFarlane and their incredibly talented collaborators were responsible for breathing life into Spider-Man's spurned alien costume and bonding it to Eddie Brock. The rest, as they say, is history.

But David's killer scripts are only half of this story! I couldn't possibly draft up a letter column introducing you readers out there in Mighty Marvel-dom to this book without mentioning illustrator Ivan Fiorelli. Ivan is a tremendous talent, and this series marks his debut in the symbiotic corner of the Marvel Universe. I'm sure you readers will agree with me when I say that I hope he sticks around for YEARS to come! This series is one of the leanest and meanest VENOM books in a while, and JUST WAIT until you see what surprises David and Ivan have up their sleeves.

Color artist Bryan Valenza and letterer extraordinaire Travis Lanham round out this murderers' row of comic creators, and without them, this book wouldn't be half as gorgeous as it is! Bryan's one of the best colorists in the biz and has such a talent for breathing life into Ivan's black-and-white pages. He's the sort of colorist who makes the Marvel Universe feel like a real place you could step into, if you were to just throw yourself at a comic book hard enough...

But maybe don't do that for this series--after all, Venom is one of the most dangerous and lethal characters in the Marvel U., and you wouldn't even want to THINK about getting on his bad side. So watch your back, and tell your comic shop to add the next issue to your pull list!

Until then--STAY SHARP!  
Devin  
2.16.22

**NEXT:**





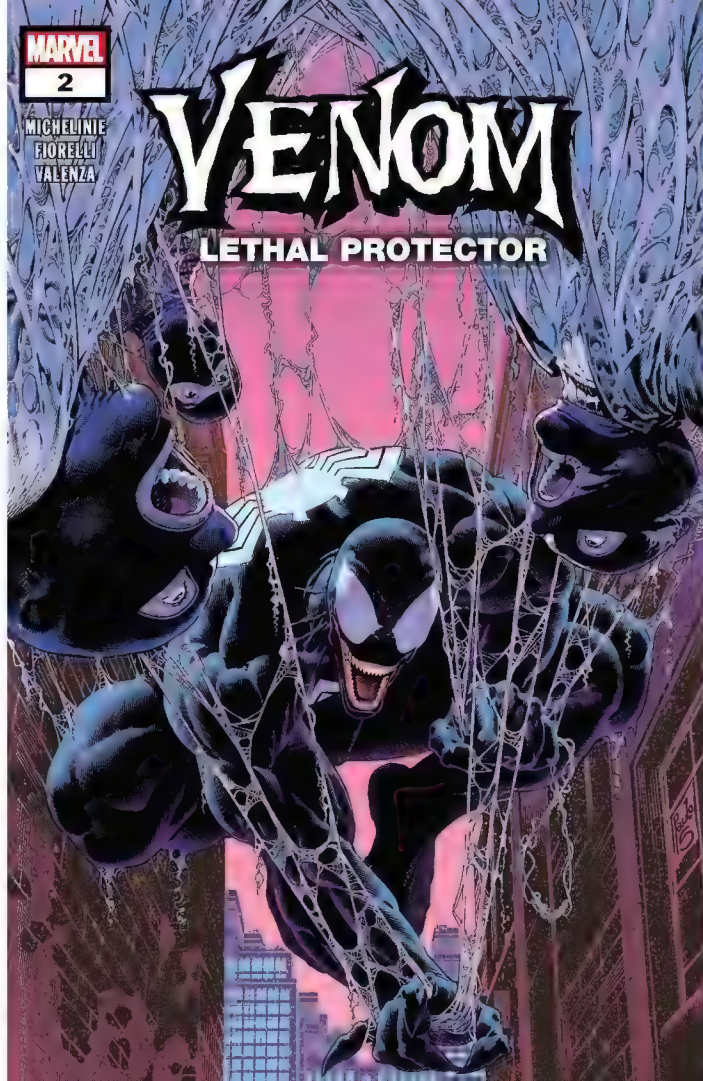
MARVEL

2

MICHELINIE  
FIORELLI  
VALENZA

# VENOM

LETHAL PROTECTOR

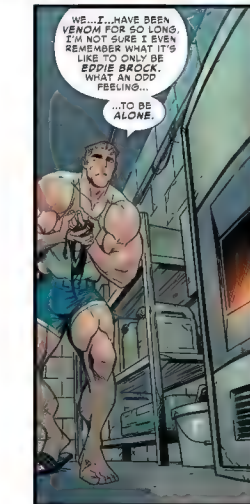


MANHATTAN,  
GREENWICH VILLAGE  
A CHILLY FALL EVENING.

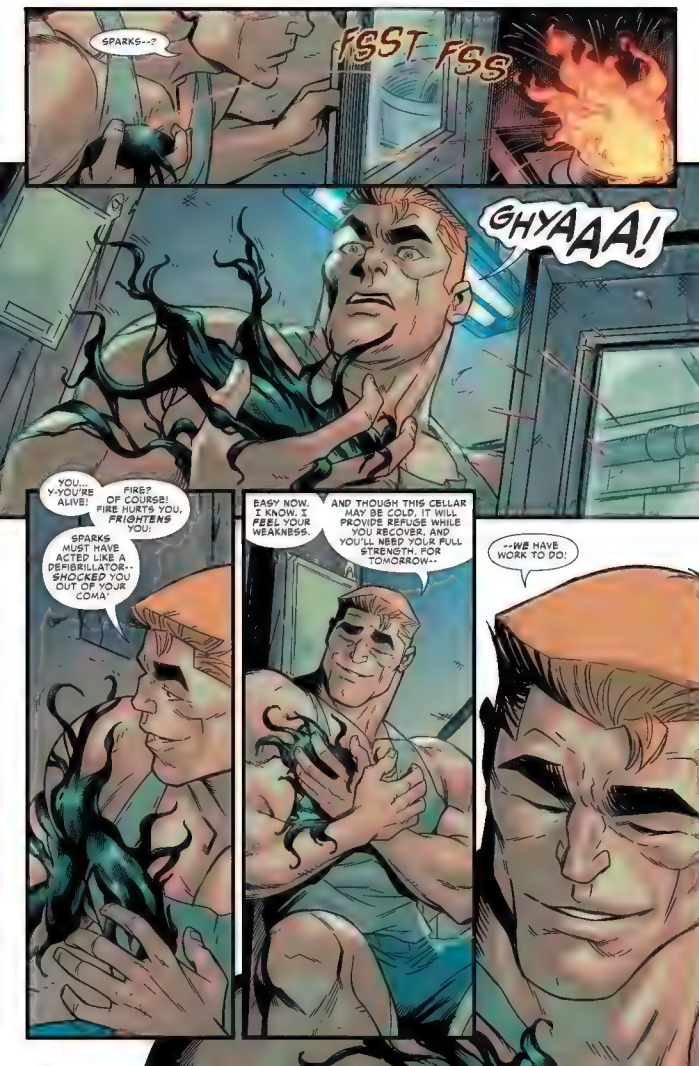
# KAREEEESH

## WETWORKS & BUG TRAPS

DAVID MICHELINIE	IVAN FIORELLI	BRYAN VALENZA	VC's TRAVIS LANHAM	TOM GRONEMAN	DEVIN LEWIS
writer	artist	color artist	letterer	assoc. editor	editor







EDDIE BROCK WAS ONCE A RESPECTED JOURNALIST, BUT HIS CAREER WAS DESTROYED WHEN ONE OF HIS SOURCES WAS EXPOSED AS A FRAUD BY SPIDER-MAN. DISGRACED, BROCK WENT TO HIS NEIGHBORHOOD CHURCH TO ASK FORGIVENESS BEFORE TAKING HIS OWN LIFE. UNWARE THAT AN EXTRATERRESTRIAL PARASITE WAS IN THE PARISH'S BELL TOWER, SPINNED AND LEFT FOR DEAD BY THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN, THE CREATURE CHOSE BROCK AS ITS HOST. IN THE PROCESS, IT IMBUED HIM WITH ALL OF SPIDER-MAN'S ABILITIES AND MORE: POWERS OF ANIMESKIN, ORGANIC WEB-SHOOTERS ON THE BACK OF EACH HAND AND PREHENSILE TENTACLES WOVEN FROM THE CREATURE'S OWN BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL. ON A TWISTED CRUSADE AND OBSESSED WITH JUSTICE, THEY ARE:

# VENOM

## LETHAL PROTECTOR



EDDIE BROCK IS IN OVER HIS HEAD.

THE LOVE OF HIS LIFE, ANNE WEYING, HAS FOUND A NEW MAN AND HAS ACCEPTED A MARRIAGE PROPOSAL FROM HIM.

MEANWHILE, DANGEROUS AND MALEVOLENT FORCES ARE ALIGNING AGAINST BROCK'S VIOLENT ALTER EGO VENOM, MANIPULATING THE WICKED WALL-CRAWLER AND THE SUPER VILLAINS OF NEW YORK INTO CONFLICT FOR REASONS UNKNOWN...

DAVID  
MICHELINIE  
WRITER

IVAN  
FIORELLI  
ARTIST

BRYAN  
VALENZA  
COLOR ARTIST

VC's TRAVIS  
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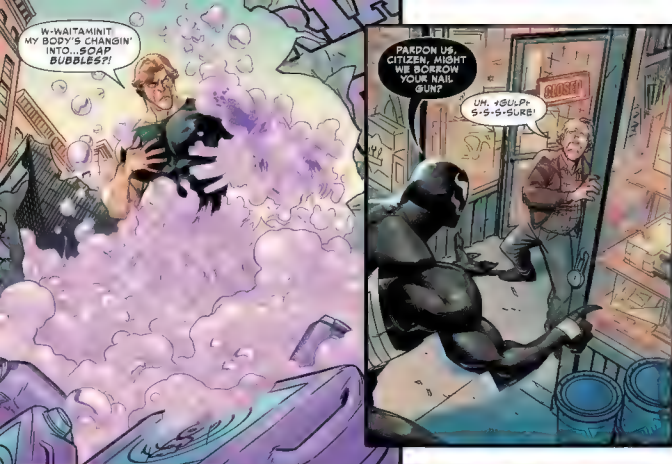
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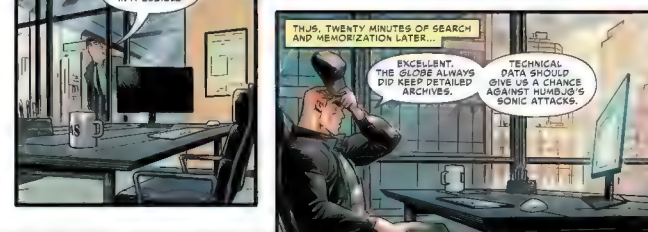
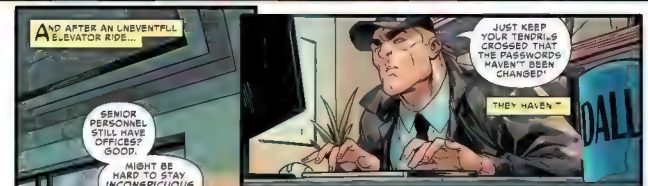
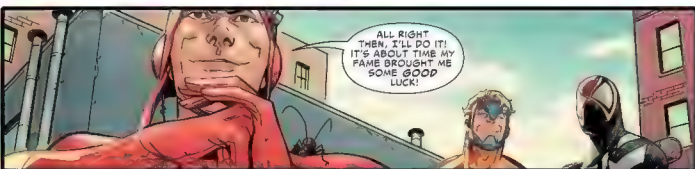


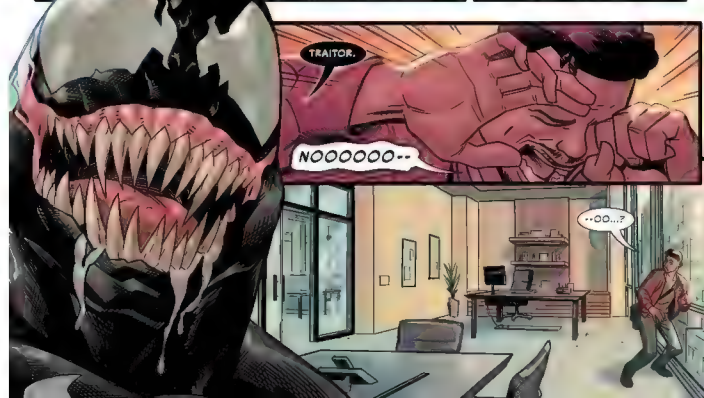
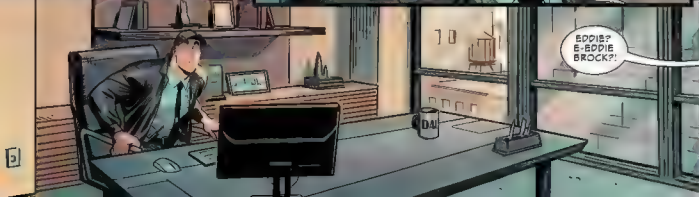
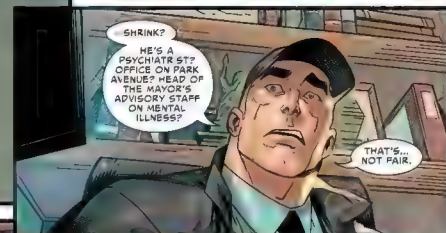












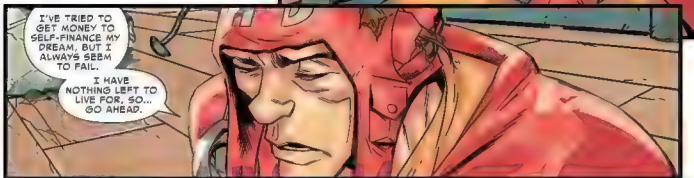
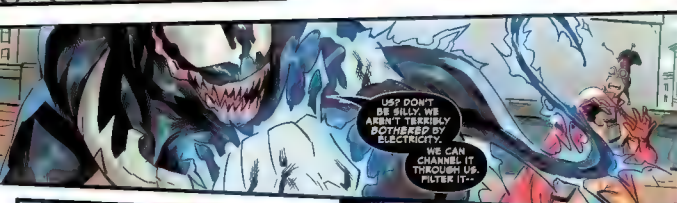














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SEND YOUR NOTES TO [SPIDEYOFFICE@MARVEL.COM](mailto:SPIDEYOFFICE@MARVEL.COM). BE SURE TO MARK THEM "OKAY TO PRINT!"





MARVEL

3

MICHELINIE  
FIORELLI  
VALENZA

# VENOM

LETHAL PROTECTOR



Paul  
S

EDDIE BROCK WAS ONCE A RESPECTED JOURNALIST, BUT HIS CAREER WAS DESTROYED WHEN ONE OF HIS SOURCES WAS EXPOSED AS A FRAUD BY SPIDER-MAN. HUMBLED, BROCK WENT TO HIS NEIGHBORHOOD CHURCH TO ASK FORGIVENESS BEFORE TAKING HIS OWN LIFE, UNWARE THAT AN EXTRATERRESTRIAL PARASITE WAS IN THE PARISH'S BELL TOWER, SPURNED AND LEFT FOR DEAD BY THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN. THE CREATURE CHOSE BROCK AS ITS HOST. IN THE PROCESS, IT IMBUED HIM WITH ALL OF SPIDER-MAN'S ABILITIES AND MORE: POWERS OF ADHESION, ORGANIC WEB-SHOOTERS ON THE BACK OF EACH HAND AND PREHENSILE TENDRILS WOVEN FROM THE CREATURE'S OWN BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL. ON A TWISTED CRUISE AND OBSESSED WITH JUSTICE, THEY ARE:

# VENOM

## LETHAL PROTECTOR



EDDIE BROCK IS IN OVER HIS HEAD.

THE LOVE OF HIS LIFE, ANNE WEYING, IS ENGAGED, AND AFTER BEING HUMBLING BY HYDRO-MAN, HUMBUG AND COUNTLESS OTHER FOES, VENOM IS BEGINNING TO THINK SOMEONE IS OUT FOR THEIR BLOOD.

THE SINISTER SYMBIOTE NEEDS TO FIND OUT WHY, AND FAST, SO THEY CAN END THIS VICIOUS HUNT--BRAINS AU GRATIN, ANYONE? LUCKILY, A REPRESENTATIVE FROM A SHADOWNY ORGANIZATION HAS JUST APPROACHED EDDIE WITH AN OFFER THAT SOUNDS TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE...

DAVID MICHELINIE	IVAN FIORELLI	BRYAN VALENZA	VC'S TRAVIS LANHAM	PAULO SIQUEIRA & MATTHEW WILSON
WRITER	ARTIST	COLOR ARTIST	LETTERER	COVER ARTISTS

KYLE HOTZ & DAN BROWN VARIANT COVER ARTISTS

TOM GRONEMAN	DEVIN LEWIS	C.B. CEBULSKI
ASSOCIATE EDITOR	EDITOR	EDITOR IN CHIEF

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LONG ISLAND, THE KELNER  
SCIENTIFIC INNOVATIONS  
LABORATORY OF DR. DANA HARWOOD...

SOME  
DEAL! YOU  
OFFER TO CURE OUR  
VULNERABILITY TO  
SOUND ATTACKS,  
AND ALL WE HAVE  
TO DO IN  
RETURN--  
...IS SIGN  
AWAY OUR  
LIFE!

# SINS OF OMISSION

DAVID MICHELINIE	IVAN FIORELLI	TRAVIS LANHAM	BRYAN VALENZA	DEVIN LEWIS	TOM GRONEMAN
writer	artist	letterer	colorist	editor	associate editor





DON'T BE SUCH A DRAMA QUEEN, BROCK. THAT CONTRACT IS ONLY BINDING FOR TEN YEARS.

WITH OPTIONS, OF COURSE.

YEAH, BUT TEN YEARS OF WHAT?



PEACE OF MIND. THE LIFE FOUNDATION PROVIDES AN ESSENTIAL SERVICE IN THESE TROUBLED TIMES.

OUR CLIENTELE PAYS SEVEN FIGURES FOR CONDOS IN OUR PRIVATE SURVIVAL COMMUNITY. IN RETURN, THEY EXPECT PEACE, COMFORT... AND SECURITY.

THAT'S WHERE YOU COME IN NOW IF YOU'LL JUST HAVE YOUR "OTHER" MANIFEST ITSELF...?

TERRIFIC, BABY-SITTER FOR A GROUP OF CROBOSUS-LEVEL ELITISTS WHO MESS THEIR PANTS EVERY TIME THEY SAY THE SKY IS FALLING? NOW WOULD BE SO PROUD...



PHSSST

BUT IF I'VE BOOST OUR CHANCES OF PUNISHING SPIDER-MAN FOR HOW HE SHATTERED OUR LIVES...

...HUMILIATION IS A SMALL PRICE TO PAY!



STOP WHINING YOU HAVE ONE WEEK TO CLEAR UP ANY SUCH SECONDARY ENTANGLEMENTS BEFORE REPORTING FOR YOUR NEW DUTIES.

SO HOW DO WE KNOW YOU'VE LEFT YOUR PART OF THE BARGAIN?

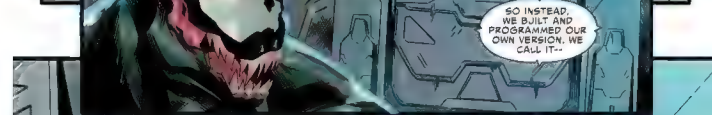


WE ANTICIPATED THAT QUESTION. SO IF YOU'LL, UM, BOTH PROCEED TO THE TEST ROOM...?

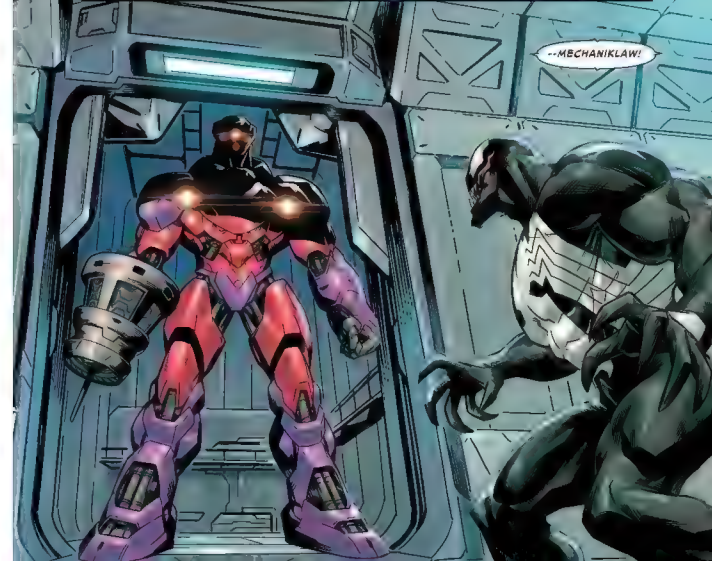


WE PLANNED TO HIRE A CRIMINAL NAMED KLAW TO VERIFY OUR SUCCESS. RESEARCH TOLD US HE HAD RATHER IMPRESSIVE SONIC ABILITIES.

UNFORTUNATELY, MR. KLAW IS CURRENTLY IN A SPECIALIZED CONTAINMENT CELL AT THE VAULT.



SO INSTEAD, WE BUILT AND PROGRAMMED OUR OWN VERSION. WE CALL IT...

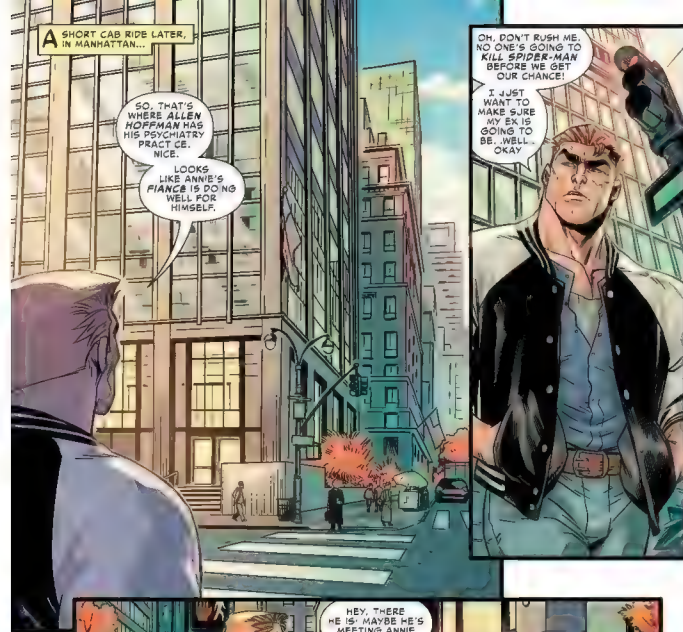
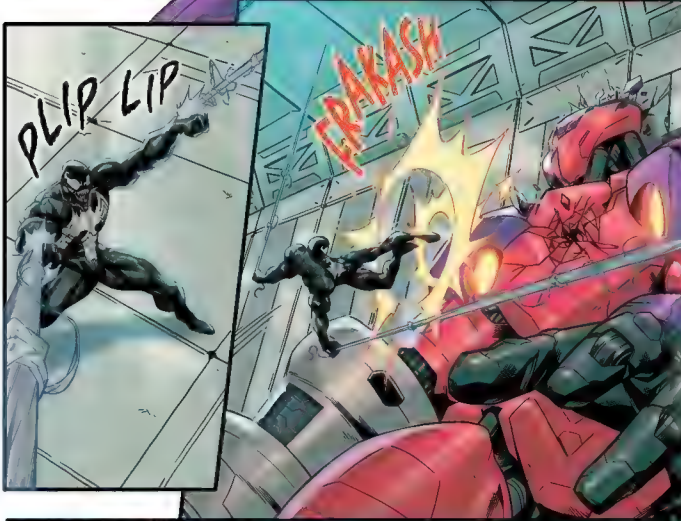
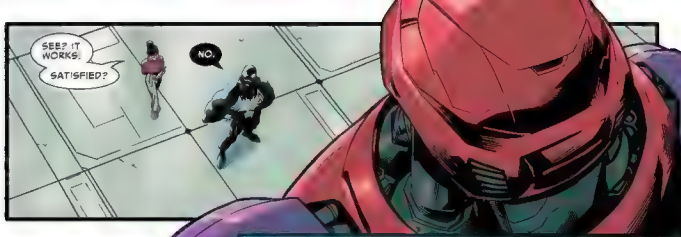


--MECHANIKLAW!











MEETING SOME  
GUY IN A COFFY  
SETUP. WHAT KIND OF  
BUSINESS WOULD THEY  
BE CONDUCTING  
IN AN ALLEY?

BETTER  
GET CLOSER  
LEND AN  
EAR



THREE NEW  
PROSPECTS.  
MONTY. BEST  
CHANCE IS  
FRANKOVITZ.

LOW  
SELF-ESTEEM.  
OBSESSIVE  
COMPLEXIVE.  
ALREADY  
HOOKED ON  
DEMOROL.



BEST OF ALL,  
HE'S LOADED. UPGRADE  
HIM TO HORSE AND YOU'LL  
HAVE A CASH COW  
FOR LIFE.

YOUR  
INFO'S ALWAYS  
SOLID, POC.  
WORTH EVERY  
PENNY.

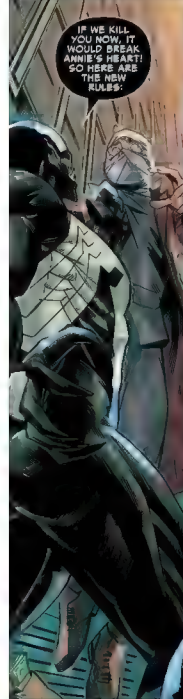
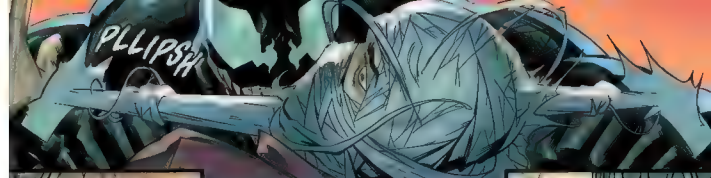


HE'S SELLING  
PRIVILEGED PATIENT  
INFORMATION TO A  
DRUG DEALER.  
PROFITING  
OFF INCIDENTS  
WHOM TRUSTED  
HIM?



AND HE'S...  
TOUCHED  
ANNIE?

BETRAYER!

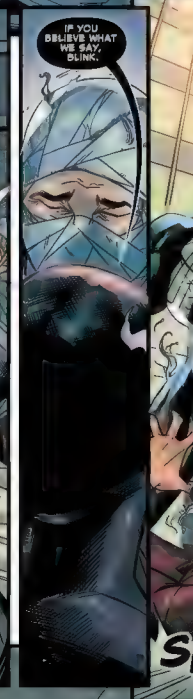


IF WE KILL  
YOU NOW, IT  
WOULD BREAK  
ANNIE'S HEART!  
SO HERE ARE  
THE NEW  
RULES:



YOU WILL  
LEAVE NEW YORK  
FOREVER. IF YOU COME  
BACK, WE WILL KNOW. IF  
YOU COME BACK, WE  
WILL FIND YOU. IF YOU  
COME BACK...

WE WILL  
RIP EVERY BONE  
FROM YOUR BODY  
THROUGH YOUR  
RUPTURING  
FLESH.



IF YOU  
BELIEVE WHAT  
WE SAY,  
SHHHH



SHHHH



SO.

THE SOUND OF WET  
WHISPERS ECHOES  
DOWN THE ALLEY.



WHILE ON THE HUDSON RIVER DOCKS, THE PLASTIC CLACKS OF LAPTOP KEYS ECHOES IN A DESERTED WAREHOUSE.

NEVER HAD MUCH INTEREST IN THE DARK WEB.

TO BE HONEST, IT KINDA SCARES ME!

MMM. THIS LOOKS PROMISING NOT SURE ABOUT THAT "BASED ON PERCENTAGE" STUFF, BUT AS PART OF AN ARMY--

#### Employment Opportunity

Augmented or ultra-skilled individuals only.  
Join an army of your kind, for your kind

- Financing, lodging amenities provided.
- Payment based on percentage of profit from activities.

(To apply, enter code: 1001)

--AT LEAST I'LL STAY ALIVE.

TLICK

VIGILANCE. THAT'S THE KEY WE DON'T HAVE A "SPIDER-SENSE" TO HELP TRACK OUR PREY.

BUT PARKER FEEDS ON GLOZY, CRAVES THE SPOTLIGHT. SOONER OR LATER, HE'S BOUND TO--

THERE THE DECEIVER MAY BE SLY, BUT HE'S SO PREDICTABLE. HEADING FOR THAT HIGH-RISE NERVO!

PROBABLY STARTED THE BLAZE HIMSELF SO HE COULD PLAY "HERO"!

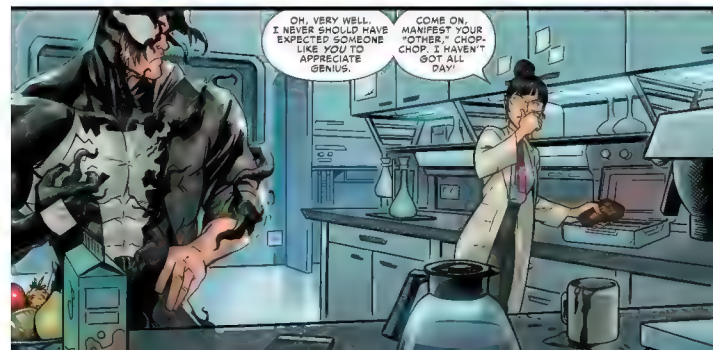
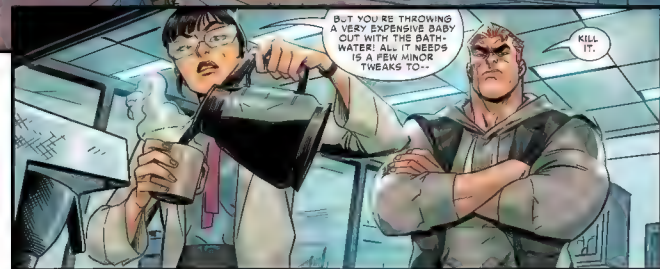
BUT WE'LL CATCH UP TO HIM BEFORE HE CAN DO ANY MORE HARM!

WHAT THE--?

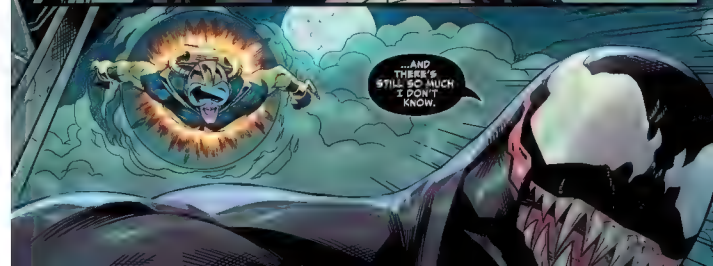
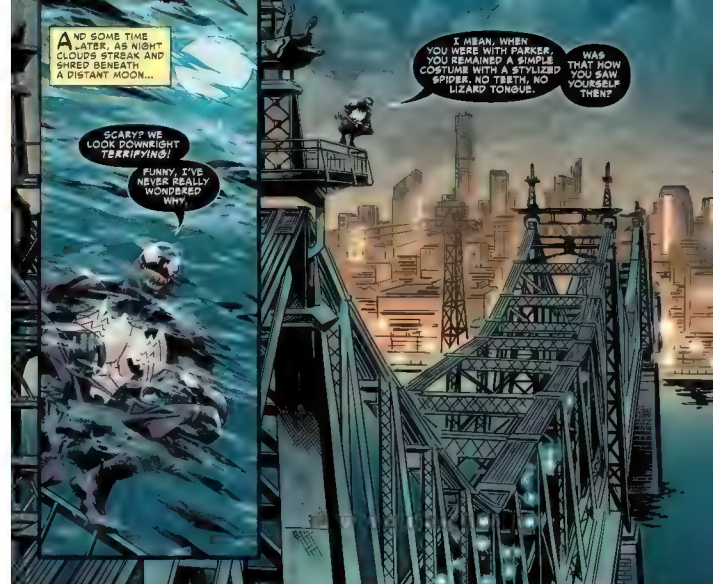
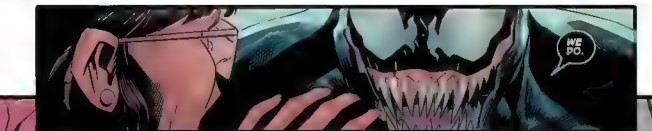
WHY DID PETER-PAN COME--?

MOMMY, LOOK! IT'S OBNOXIO THE CLOWN! CAN I GET A CLOWN BURGER?













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MARVEL  
4

MICHELINIE  
FIORELLI  
VALENZA

# VENOM

LETHAL PROTECTOR



EDDIE BROCK WAS ONCE A RESPECTED JOURNALIST, BUT HIS CAREER WAS DESTROYED WHEN ONE OF HIS SOURCES WAS EXPOSED AS A FRAUD BY SPIDER-MAN. LOSING EVERYTHING, BROCK WENT TO HIS NEIGHBORHOOD BARBERS TO GET FINGERCUTS, GETTING TALKING TO HIS OWN HAIR. DURING THAT AN EXTREMELY DANGEROUS, PARANOID MAN IN THE FASHION OF BELL TOWER, SPIDER-MAN AND LEE PETERSON BY THE BAZILLARD SPIDER-MAN. THE CREATING CROSS BROCK AS ITS HOST. IN THE PROCESS, IT INVOLVED HIM WITH ALL OF SPIDER-MAN'S ABILITIES AND MANY POWERS OF AMERICAN ORGANIZED SHOOTERS ON THE BACK OF EACH HAND AND PREVIOUSLY TENNIS GLOVES FROM THE CENTURY'S OWN MEXICAN MATERIAL, OR A TWISTED MACHINE AND DISSECTED WITH JUSTICE, THEY ARE.

# VENOM

## LETHAL PROTECTOR



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HE'S LEARNED THAT THE LOVE OF HIS LIFE, ANNE WELSH, IS ENGAGED AND WANTS NOTHING TO DO WITH HIM. A FEELER OF DANGEROUS VILLAINS HAVE ALSO ATTACKED PEOPLE IN THE STREETS OF NYC. VENOM'S MANAGED TO SEND OFF THE LINES OF HYDRO-MAN, HAVING A CHANCE, BUT THEY'RE NOT SURE HOW MUCH MORE THEY CAN TAKE.

THERE'S A PRICE ON VENOM'S HEAD, SOMEONE'S OUT FOR BLOOD, AND THE SISTER SYMBIOTE IS GOING TO FIND OUT WHO, AND MAKE THEM PAY.

DAVID  
MICHELLE  
WRITER

IVAN  
FIORELLI  
ARTIST

BRYAN  
VALENZA  
COLOR ARTIST

VC'S TRAVIS  
LANHAM  
LETTERER

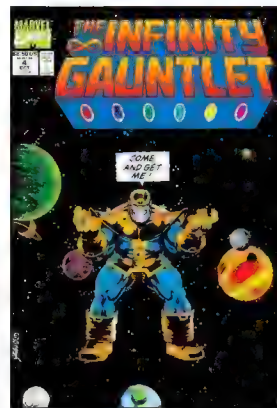
PAULO SIQUEIRA &  
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JUNBOY MEYERS VIBRANT COVER ARTIST  
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G.D. CERULSKI  
EDITOR IN CHIEF

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## GEORGE PÉREZ 1954-2022



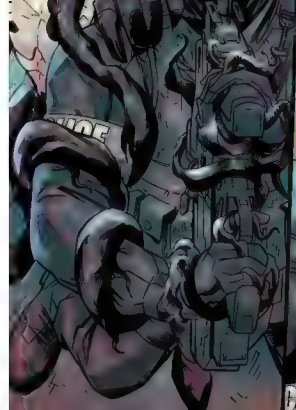
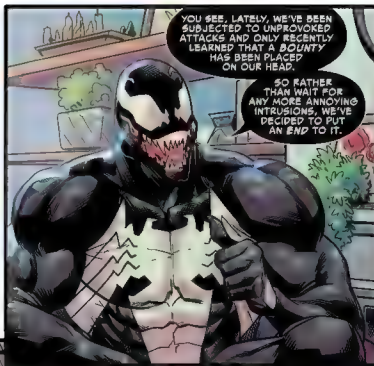
MARVEL COMICS PAUSES TO REFLECT ON THE LIFE AND CAREER OF BELOVED WRITER AND LEGENDARY ARTIST GEORGE PÉREZ, who was widely known and respected for his incredible talent, kindness and generosity in the comics community and beyond. During his career at Marvel, he contributed to titles such as *Inhumans*, *Fantastic Four* and two long runs on *Avengers*, including his landmark work on *JLA/Avengers*. Pérez co-created Marvel's first Latin American Super Hero and first Puerto Rican mainstream character, Hector Ayala, A.K.A. White Tiger. Pérez had huge hits at DC with *New Teen Titans* and *Crisis on Infinite Earths*. And as both a writer and penciler, he reinvented *Wonder Woman*. He was renowned for his ability (and desire) to include huge numbers of characters in a panel, cleanly and clearly.

Pérez made an indisputable impact on the comics community and its fans. He was well-known for being the friendliest and most approachable creator, especially at conventions. He will be deeply missed by all who knew him and were touched by his many decades of work.

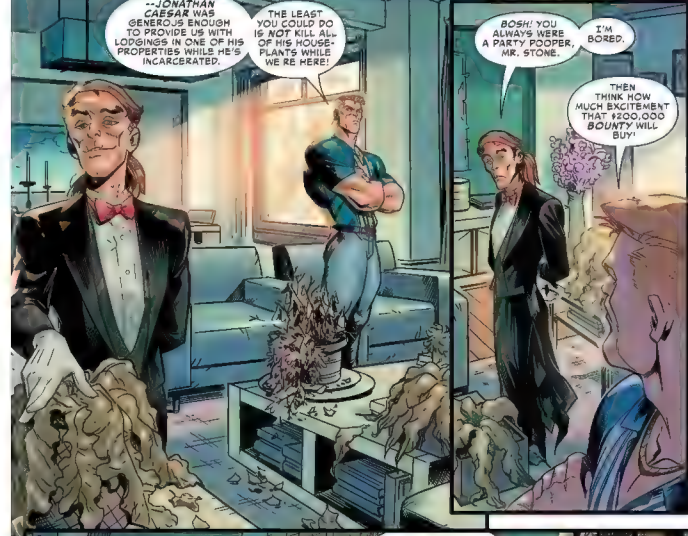
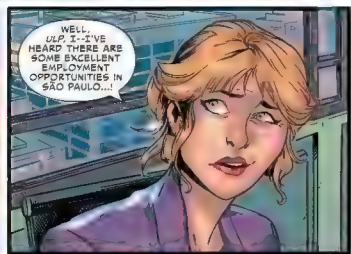
"George is one of those ridiculously gifted talents of whom you could ask anything and he would give it to you, in many cases better than you asked." — CHRIS CLAREMONT









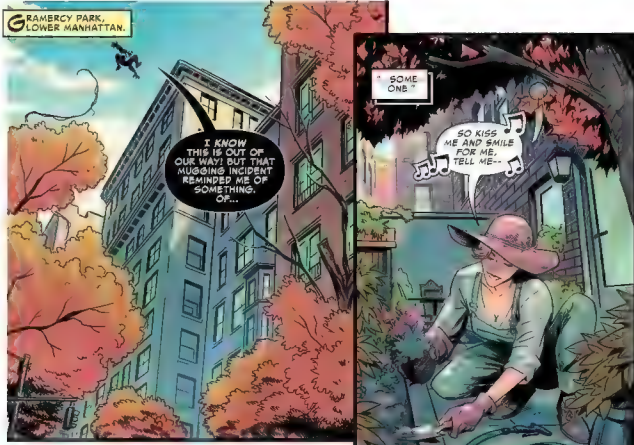




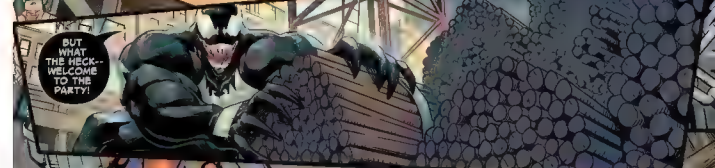
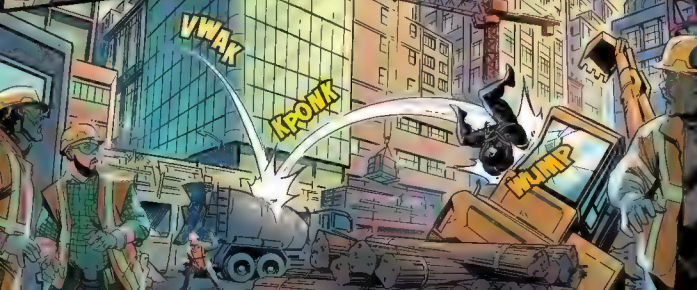
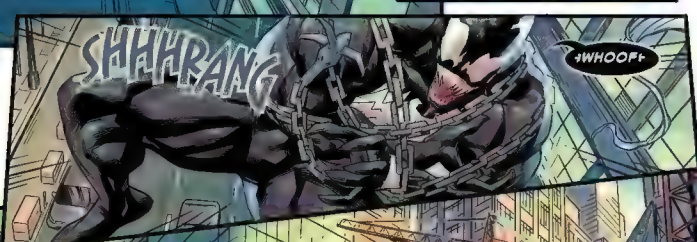
























BUT...MR. STONE  
TOOK ME FOR WHAT  
I AM, WHEN ALL OTHERS  
SHUNNED ME. HE...HE'S  
MY FRIEND. MY...  
...ONLY...  
... FRIEND.

I'LL TELL  
YOU...WHAT  
YOU WANT  
TO KNOW.

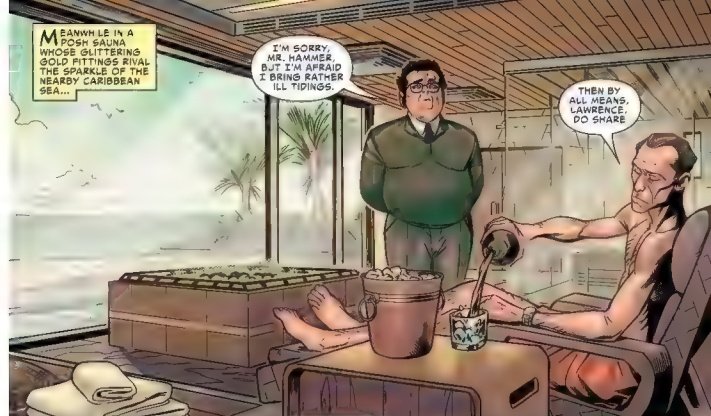


AND SOON, AS  
A METRO SPECIAL  
INCIDENT TEAM ARRIVES  
TO SECURE THE SCENE...

THAT  
WASN'T  
HOW HE  
PLANNED  
IT...

--BUT THE RESULT  
IS THE SAME. AT LAST,  
WE KNOW THE NAME  
OF THE MAN  
RESPONSIBLE FOR OUR  
PERSECUTION.  
NOW  
THERE'S  
ONLY ONE  
THING LEFT  
TO FIGURE  
OUT.

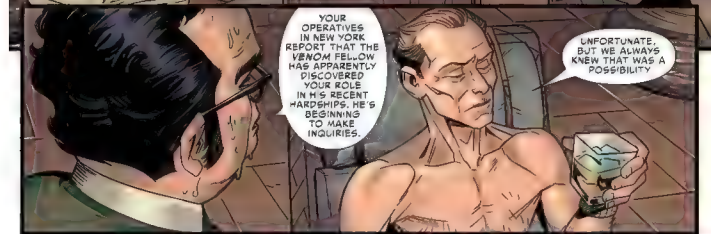
JUST  
WHO THE  
BLOODY BLAZES  
HAMBERT!



MEANWHILE IN A  
POSH SAUNA  
WHOSE GLITTERING  
GOLD FITTINGS RIVAL  
THE SPARKLE OF THE  
NEARBY CARIBBEAN  
SEA...

I'M SORRY,  
MR. HAMMER,  
BUT I'M AFRAID  
BRING RATHER  
ILL TIDINGS.

THEN BY  
ALL MEANS,  
LAWRENCE,  
DO SHARE



YOUR  
OPERATIVES  
IN NEW YORK  
REPORT THAT THE  
VENOM FELLOW  
HAS APPARENTLY  
DISCOVERED  
YOUR ROLE  
IN HIS RECENT  
HARDSHIPS. HE'S  
BEGINNING  
TO MAKE  
INQUIRIES.

UNFORTUNATE,  
BUT WE ALWAYS  
KNEW THAT WAS A  
POSSIBILITY



BUT VENOM IS SAID  
TO BE CONSIDERABLY  
DANGEROUS. WHAT SHALL  
WE DO IF HE COMES  
KNOCKING AT  
OUR DOOR?

WHY WE  
DO WHAT ANY  
CIVILIZED PERSON  
WOULD DO WHEN  
COMPANY COMES  
CALLING.

WE  
INVITE THE  
GENTLEMAN  
IN!



TO BE CONTINUED...





# Next

TOM GRONEMAN

ASSOCIATE EDITOR

DEVIN LEWIS

EDITOR

NICK LOWE

EXECUTIVE EDITOR

C.B. CEBULSKI

TO: SPIDEY@MARVEL.COM

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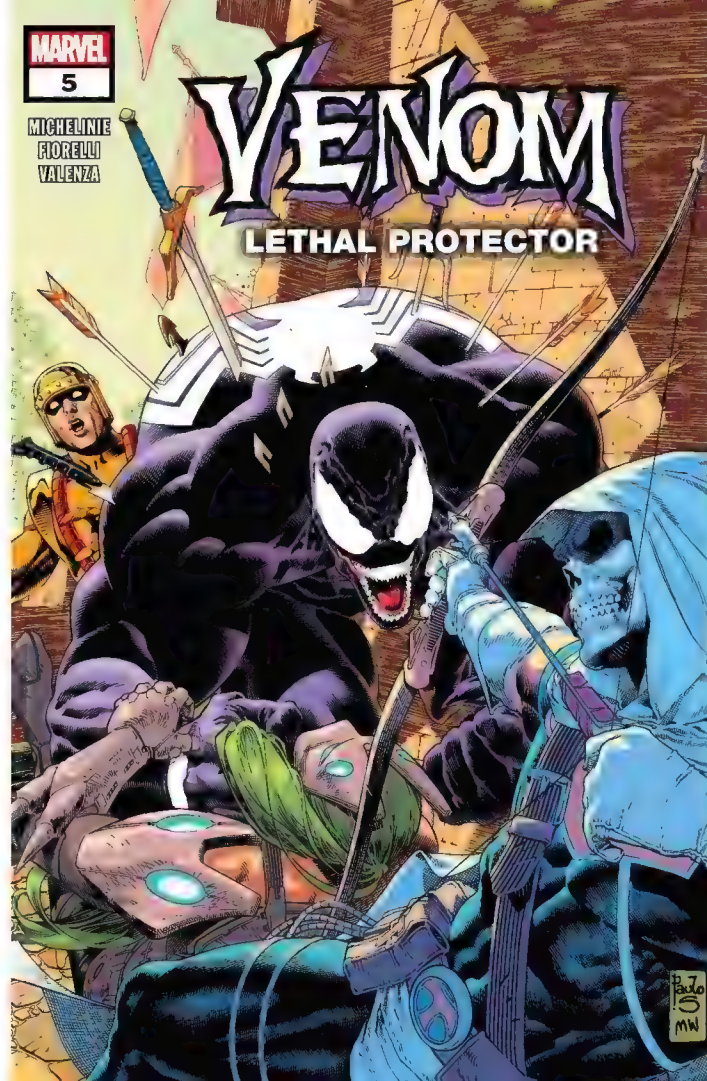


MARVEL  
5

MICHELINIE  
FIORELLI  
VALENZA

# VENOM

LETHAL PROTECTOR





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AFTER DEFEATING STYX AND STONE, THE FELLED MERCENARIES TOLD VENOM WHAT THEY WANTED TO KNOW: JUSTIN HAMMER'S THE ONE WHO PUT A PRICE ON THE WICKED WEB-SLINGER'S HEAD. NOW VENOM'S GOING TO END THIS—ONCE AND FOR ALL!

DAVID  
MICHELINIE  
WRITER

IVAN  
FIORELLI  
PENCILER

BRYAN  
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COLOR ARTIST

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### HAMMER'S HAMMERS!

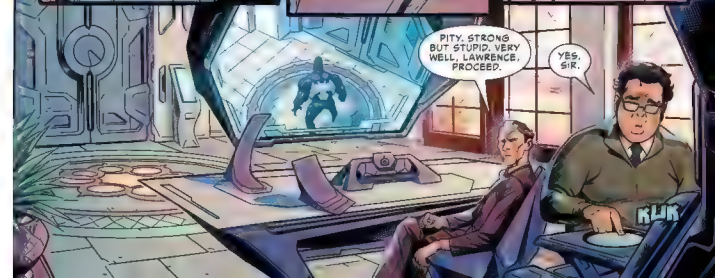
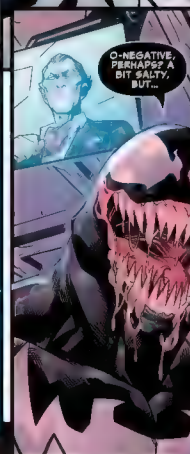
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BRYAN VALENZA colorist DEVIN LEWIS supervising editor TOM BRONEMAN editor

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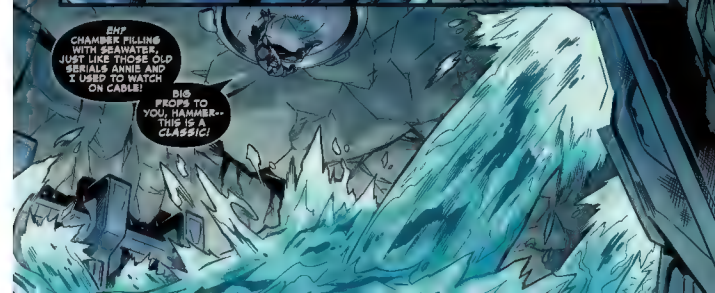
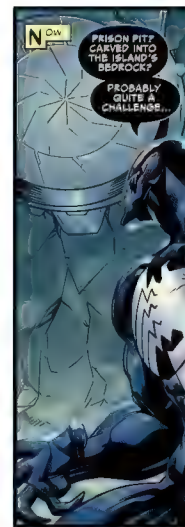
















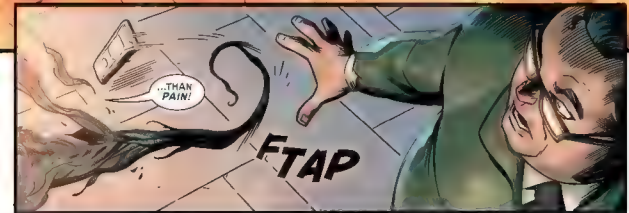
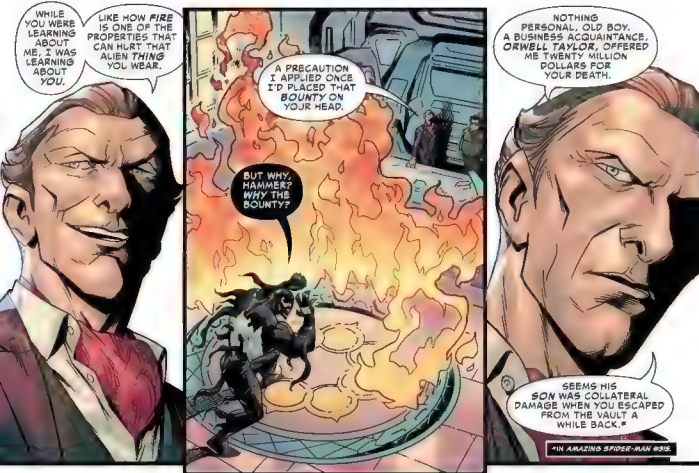








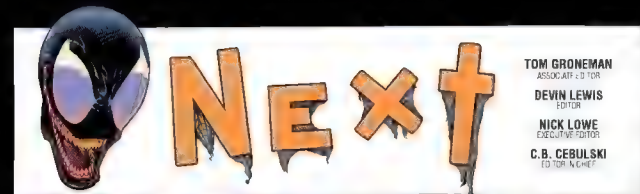
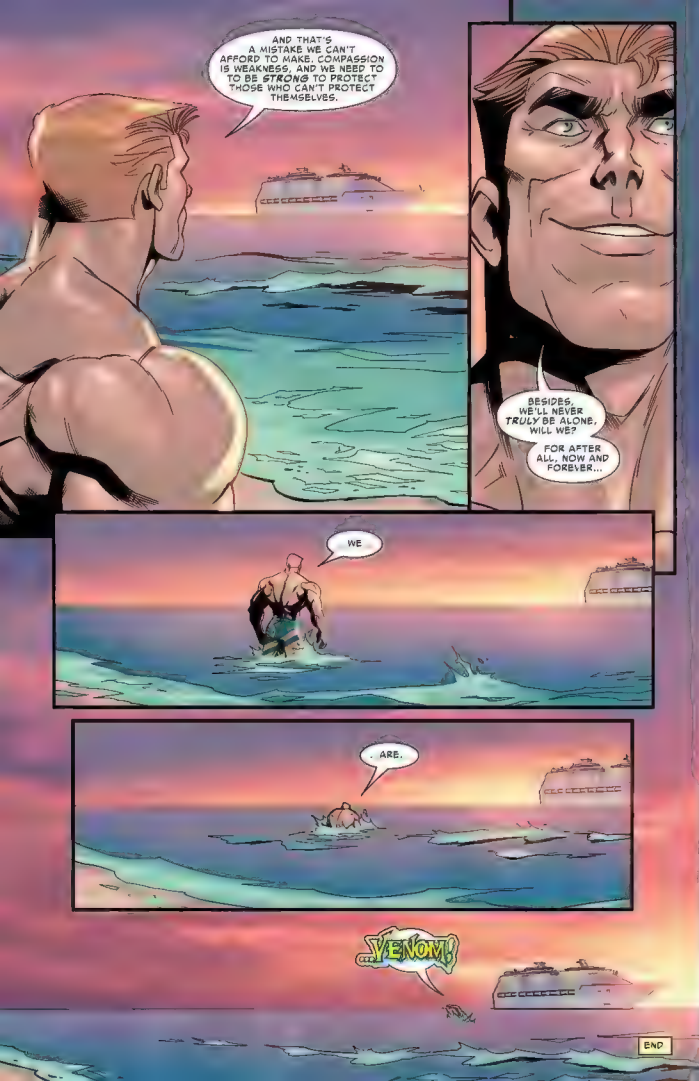














MILLIGAN  
COKER  
FREEDMAN



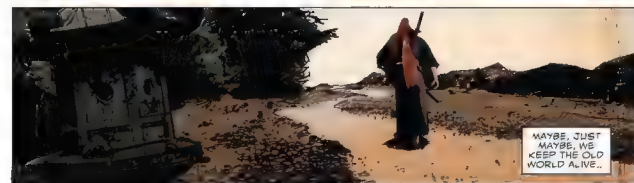
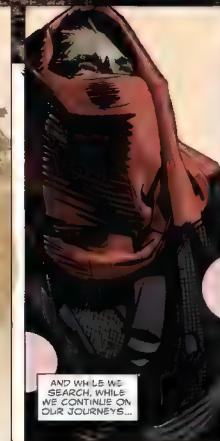
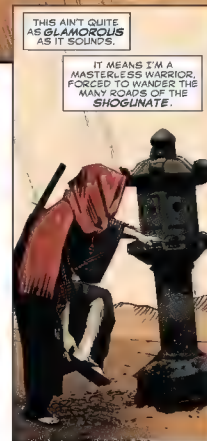
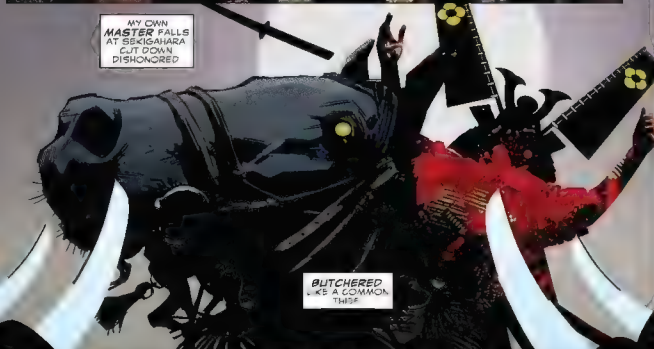
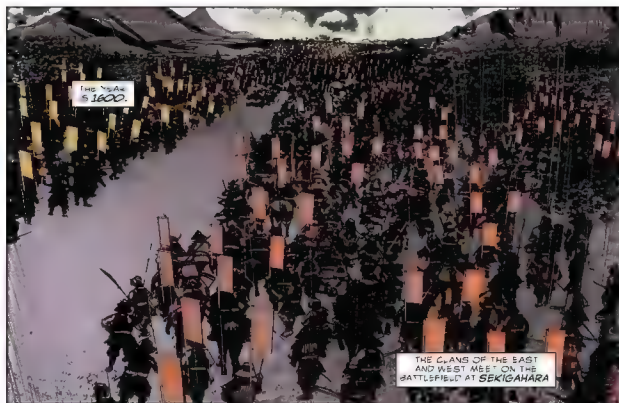
"UNTIL NOW, THE WORLD  
HAS BEEN UNCOMPLICATED.  
PURE.  
THERE HAS BEEN WAR.  
LIFE OR DEATH.  
HONOR OR DISHONOR."

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RONIN™  
浪人

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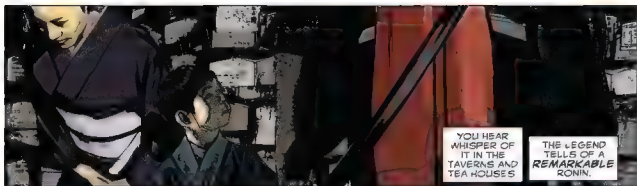




THIS LAND  
IS RICH WITH  
ANCIENT  
BELIEFS

TALES OF MAGIC  
MIRACLES AND  
HEAVENLY  
CENSURED SPIRITS

BUT IT SEEMS  
A NEW LEGEND  
IS GROWING



YOU HEAR  
WHISPERS OF  
IT IN THE  
TAVERNS AND  
TEA HOUSES

THE LEGEND  
TELLS OF A  
REMARKABLE  
RONIN



A RONIN WHO  
CANNOT DIE.



OR RATHER,  
WHO WILL NOT  
STAY DEAD



THE THINGS  
PEOPLE  
BELIEVE.  
HUH?



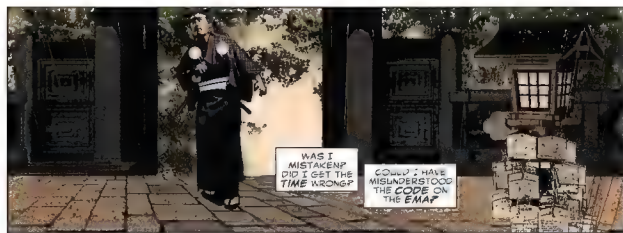
IT TAKES A WEEK  
TO REACH THE  
PLACE OF MEETING.  
ONE DAY EAST OF  
THE UNENDING  
CITY OF MITO

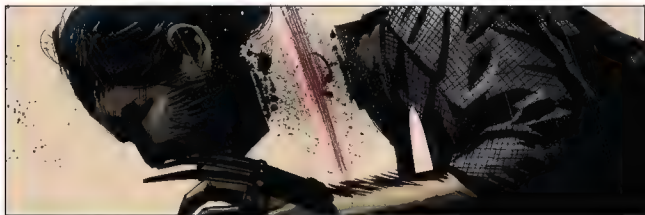


BUT  
SOMETHING  
AIN'T RIGHT

I'M NEVER  
THE FIRST









# Five Weeks Later

THE  
ROADS ARE  
SAFER THAN  
THEY USED  
TO BE.

THE DAIMYO  
MIGHT BE HARD,  
BUT HE KEEPS  
THE BANDITS  
IN CHECK.

AND I HEAR  
THAT IT'S MORE  
THAN HAWKS  
THAT HE  
HUNTS.

WHAT  
FLOATING  
WORLD DO YOU  
LIVE IN, AKIO? THE  
DAIMYO IS MORE  
INTERESTED IN  
HUNTING THAN  
AFFAIRS OF  
STATE.

OUR REVERED DAIMYO  
HAS THE PRETTIEST  
AND MOST INVENTIVE  
GIRLS SENT TO  
HIM FROM  
YOSHIWARA.

ENOUGH  
DAKI.



TAKE CARE,  
THE DAIMYO  
HAS SPIES  
MAYBE WE'VE  
HAD ENOUGH  
TO DRINK.



OH, TAKE  
MORE WINE, MY  
LORDS. THEY ARE  
NOT SPIES, SIMPLY  
A DRUNKARD AND  
A WASHED-UP  
RONIN.



DRUNKARD?  
WHY DID HE  
CALL ME A...



I HOPE  
THE DAIMYO  
KILLS ALL THESE  
DAMNED RONINS  
OUT OF THE HAN  
WALKING AROUND  
LIKE THEY'RE STILL  
SO IMPORTANT.  
WHEN THEY'RE  
NOTHING BUT  
BUMS!

IS THIS WAY  
I CHOSE A  
NEW ROAD?



NO I COULD  
STEP TO  
FOOLST

BUMS?







FOO.  
WHAT DID  
YOU SAY?



YOU  
Y-YOU MUST  
BE THE RONIN...  
WHO CANNOT  
WHO CANNOT  
DIE

WHY, AND  
I THOUGHT YOU  
WERE JUST A  
MYTH.



WHAT ARE YOU TALKING  
ABOUT, FOOL? YOU  
SAW ME?



SAW YOU?  
I BURIED YOU  
HEH W-WAITED FOR  
THE... THE WARRIOR  
TO GO...  
THEN I...



TIMES  
CHANGING  
TIMES  
CHANGING



IT TAKES ME  
THE BEST PART  
OF A WEEK



EVERY STEP I TAKE,  
I HEAR THAT DRUNKARD'S  
VOICE. SEE HIS DRUNKEN  
PANTOMIME

HE WAS A MISERABLE  
FOOL. NOTHING HE  
SAID MADE SENSE



NOTHING

AND  
EVERYTHING



ON SHRINES  
ACROSS THE LAND,  
PEOPLE LEAVE WISHES  
TO THE GODS IN THE  
SHAPE OF PLAQUES  
OR EMAS

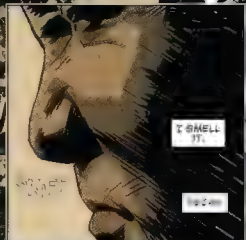


USING SECRET  
CODES, THIS IS ALSO  
A PRACTICAL WAY TO  
COMMUNICATE WITH  
OTHER TRAVELERS...



AH, BUT A MAN  
CAN GROW WEARY.  
I TURNED AWAY  
FROM THAT PATH

UNTIL THE WORDS  
OF AN IMBECILE  
BROUGHT ME BACK



I SMELL IT.

1982-1983

HUMAN  
DECAY, GETTING  
STRONGER



BY THE  
SPIRITS.



THE GRAVE  
IS TOO TOO  
SHALLOW  
FAR TOO  
SHALLOW

THE GOD  
OF FOXES  
HAS ALREADY  
FEASTED  
HERE!



SOMETHING  
IN HERE  
SOMETHING



nothing



A GOD'S  
NAME



BROTHER,  
WHO WHO DID  
THIS TO YOU?  
IF...IF ONLY YOU  
COULD SPEAK  
TO ME,  
BROTHER



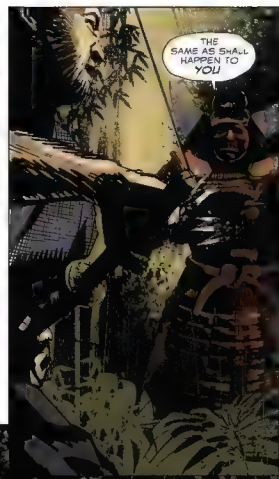
I  
WONDERED  
HOW LONG  
I'D HAVE TO  
WAIT

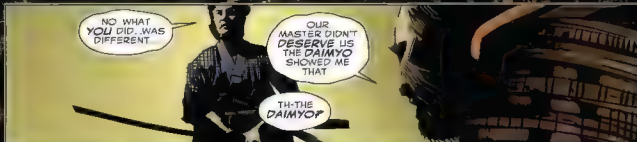
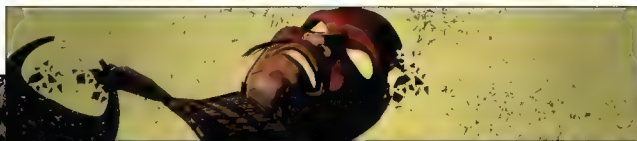
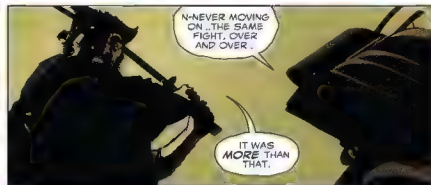


BUT I KNEW  
YOU'D COME  
EVENTUALLY

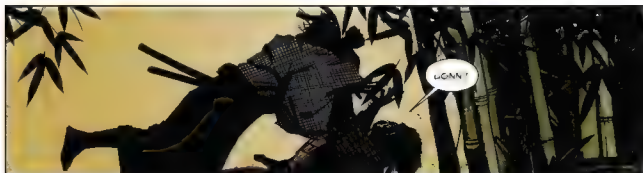
THIS IS  
WHERE IT  
ENDS



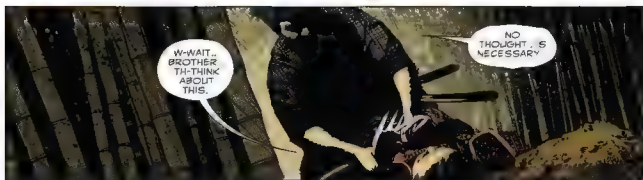








UGAH!



WHAT, BROTHER TH-THINK ABOUT THIS.

NO THOUGHT IS NECESSARY.

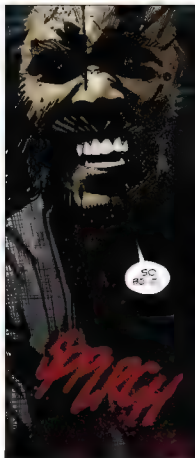


KILL ME AND YOU'LL HAVE NO ONE. YOU WILL BE ALONE.

A-ONE!



AGG-GAH!  
UGAH!



SO  
RE-



MINUTE BY  
PASS

HOURS



MAYBE  
DAYS

OUR  
MASTER WAS  
BLUTHERED AT  
SEKIGANARA

NOW I  
KNOW WHO WAS  
RESPONSIBLE  
AND WHAT I  
MUST DO

FINALLY, I SHALL  
AVENGE HIM.

I SHALL AVENGE  
ALL MY  
BROTHERS

ONCE  
THERE WERE  
MANY OF US  
ONCE THERE  
WERE MANY  
ROADS

NOW  
THERE IS  
ONLY ONE

End of Chapter One

# RONIN

## 浪人

### Chapter One: The Way Of The One

Editor:  
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to Yuliko  
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Tomm Coker





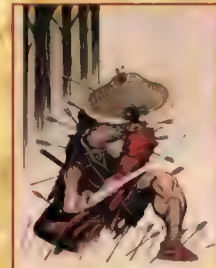
# NEXT: THE HULK!



PUNISHER



PSYLOCKE



DEADPOOL

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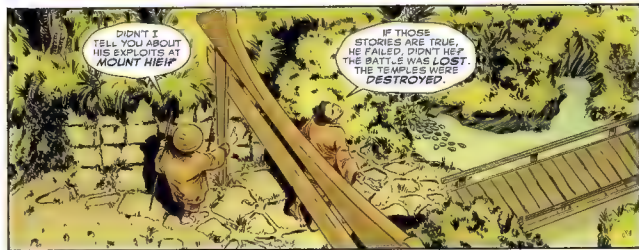


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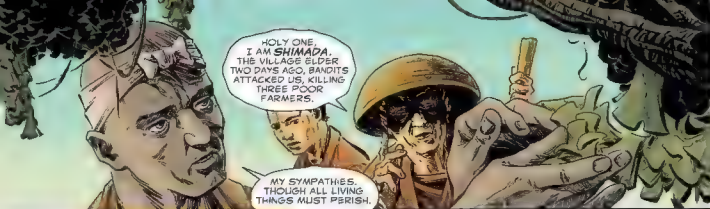
"I'M AFRAID YOU  
WILL BE DISAPPOINTED.  
BUT THEN, ALL LIFE IS BUT  
A PREPARATION FOR  
DISAPPOINTMENT."

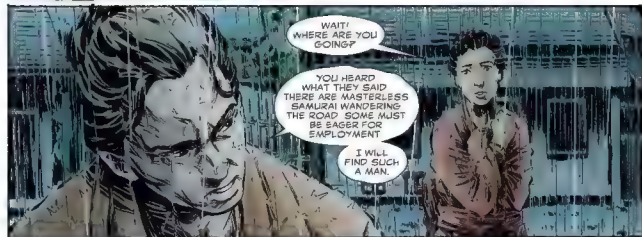
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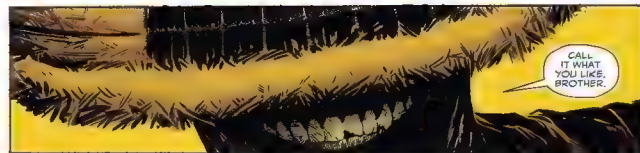


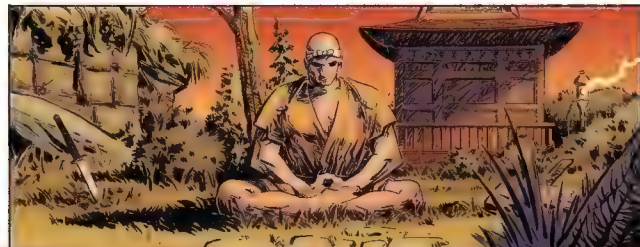
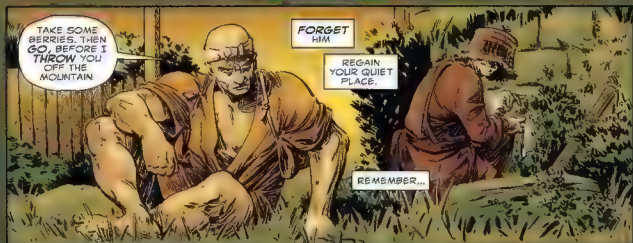




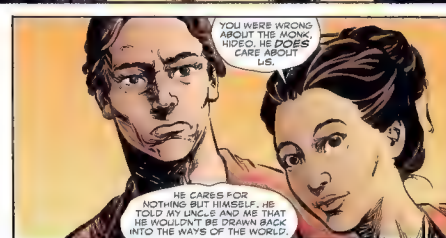
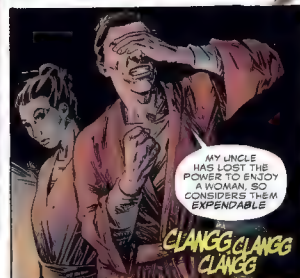
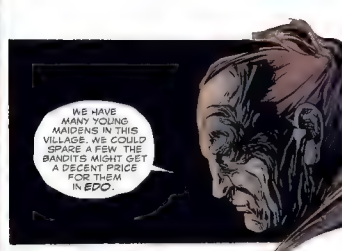














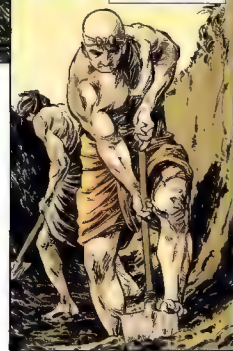


THE WORK IS  
BACKBREAKING,  
BUT FEELS  
GOOD.

PERHAPS  
TOO  
GOOD.

TO BE  
BACK IN THE  
WORLD

THE COMPANY OF  
OTHERS, THE SOUND  
OF VOICES THAT  
ARE NOT MY OWN.



AND OTHER, MORE  
BEGUILING PLEASURES.

WATER,  
MASTER?

THANK  
YOU,  
GIRL.



MASTER,  
WHY DID YOU  
DECIDE TO  
HELP US?

I AM A  
MONK CHILD.  
I SEEK THE  
TRUTH.



COME,  
SHINO. OTHERS  
NEED WATER  
TOO.



DONGG DONGG  
DONGG

THE WIND IS  
REGAINED WHEN  
THEY COME



LIKE THE HOT  
BREATH OF  
PUTIN BEFORE  
A STORM.

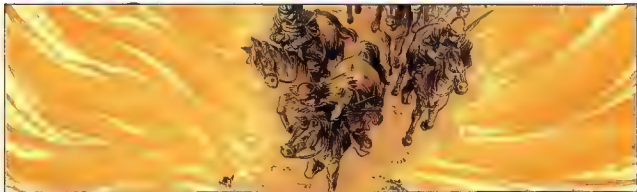
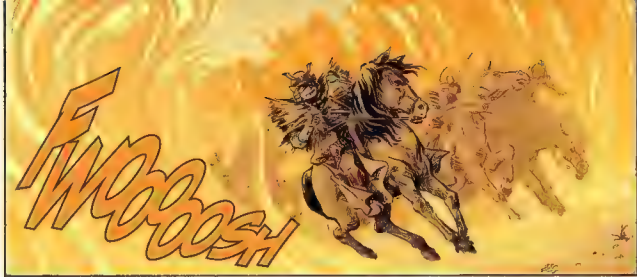


IN TRUTH, WE'RE  
NOT QUITE READY  
FOR THEM.



BUT WHEN ARE  
WE EVER READY  
FOR WHAT LIFE  
BRINGS?









THE WIND  
HAS CHANGED!  
WHAT SHALL WE  
DO, NONO?



I-I

I'M TAKEN  
BACK



THE SMELL,  
THE SCREAMS,  
THE HEAT

IT TAKES  
ME BACK



MOUNT HIBI

ANOTHER  
FIRE

ANOTHER  
TIME



A SLAUGHTER

HOW COULD IT  
NOT HAVE BEEN  
A SLAUGHTER

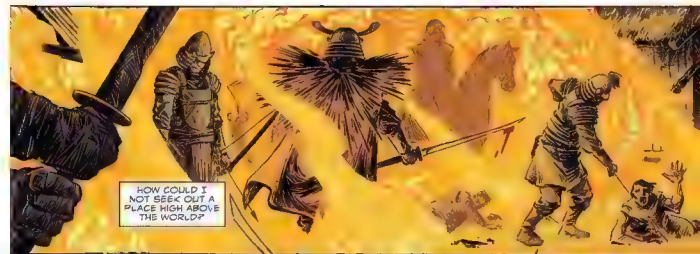


THE DAIMYO'S  
SOLDIERS WERE  
CRUEL... AND SEEMED  
TO COME FROM A  
DIFFERENT AGE.



INSTEAD OF THE PURITY OF  
ARMED COMBAT, THEY USED  
RIFLES. THEY WERE HAPPY  
TO BURN TEMPLES AND  
MURDER HOLY MEN

HOW COULD  
I NOT SEEK  
REFUGE  
AFTER THAT?



HOW COULD I  
NOT SEEK OUT A  
PLACE HIGH ABOVE  
THE WORLD?



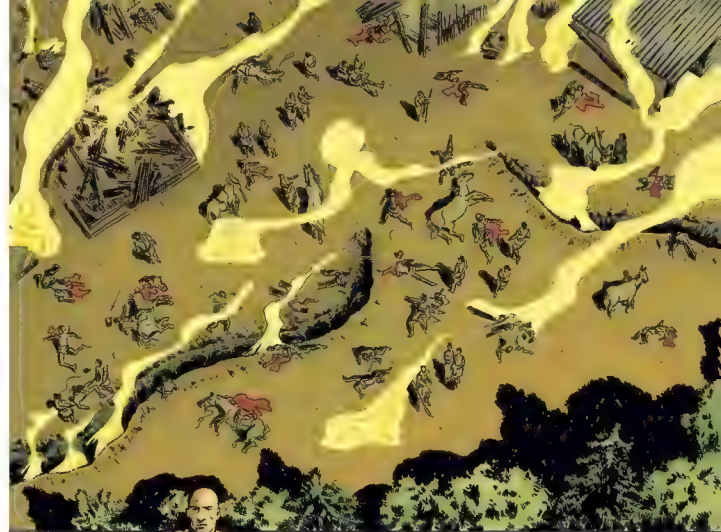
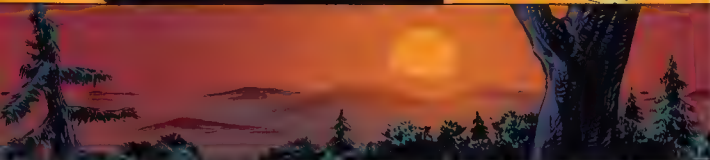
A PLACE  
WHERE I COULD  
FORGET THE  
WORLD.

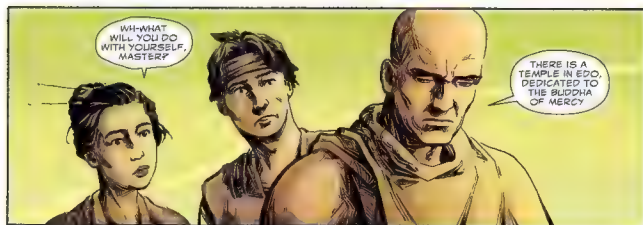


FORGET  
EVERYTHING

RAARGHH!







End of Chapter Two



# RONIN

浪人

## Chapter Two: The Way Of The Monk

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Milligan*

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LOUGHRIDGE

"...EVERY DAY WITHOUT  
FAIL YOU MUST CONSIDER  
YOURSELF AS DEAD."

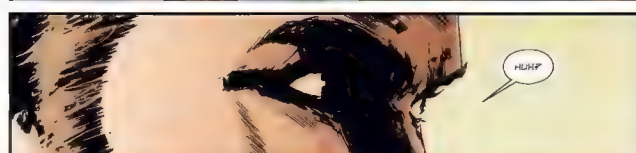
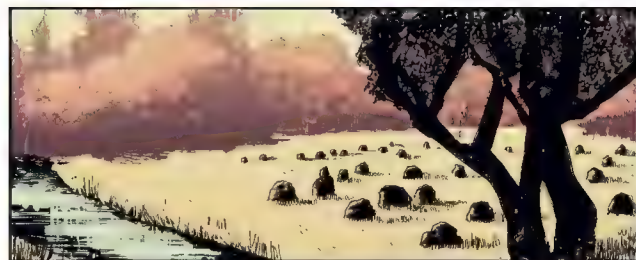
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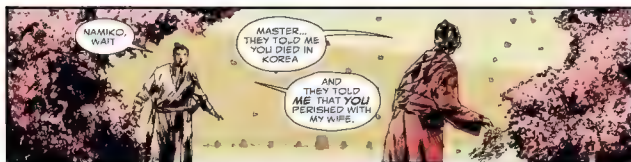






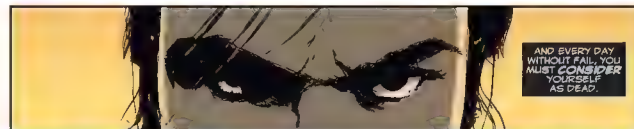
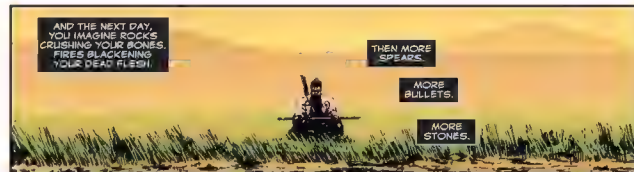
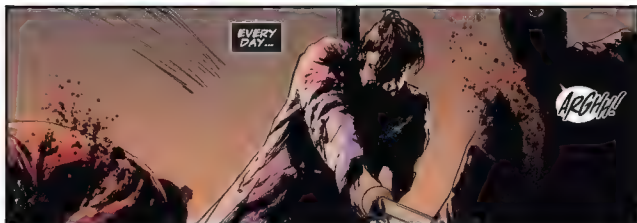


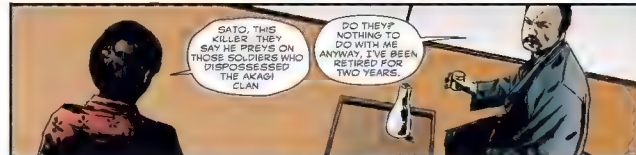




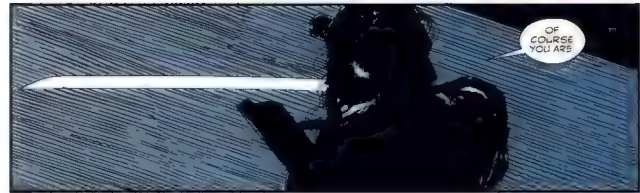
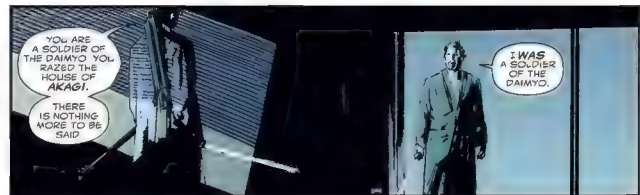


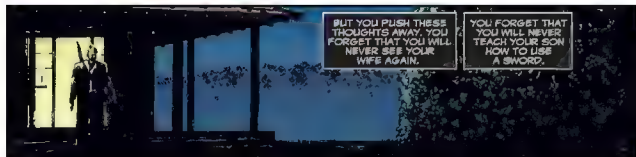
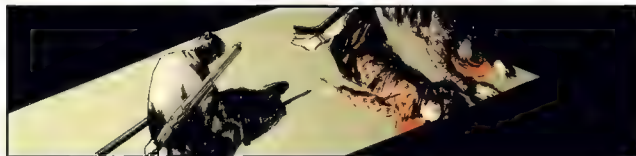
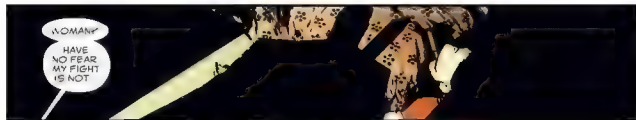




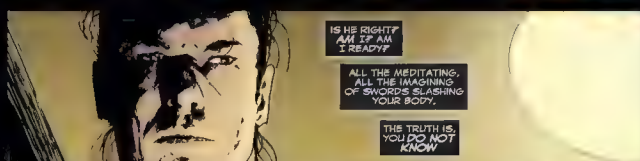
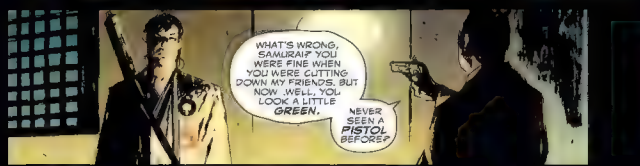
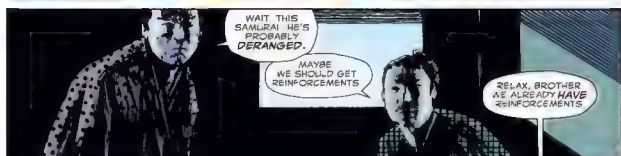
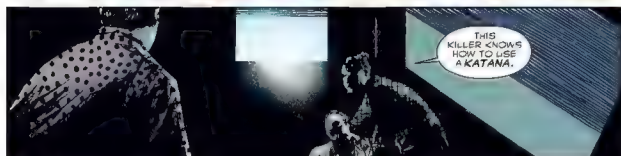


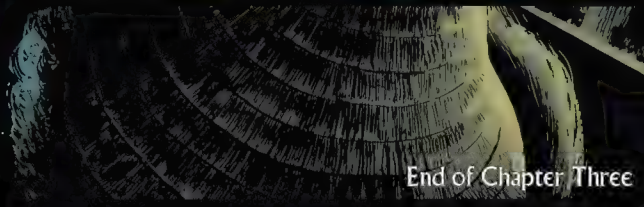














# RONIN

## 浪人

### Chapter Three: The Way Of The Samurai

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Campbell

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Lee  
Loughridge

Letters:  
V.C.'s Joe  
Caramagna

Cover:  
Giuseppe Camuncoli &  
Frank D'Armata

Character  
Sketches by

Laurence  
Campbell



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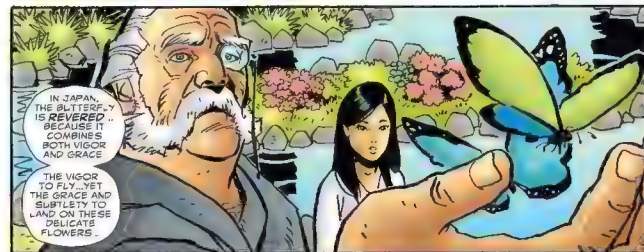
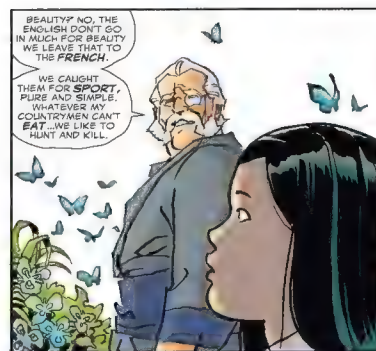
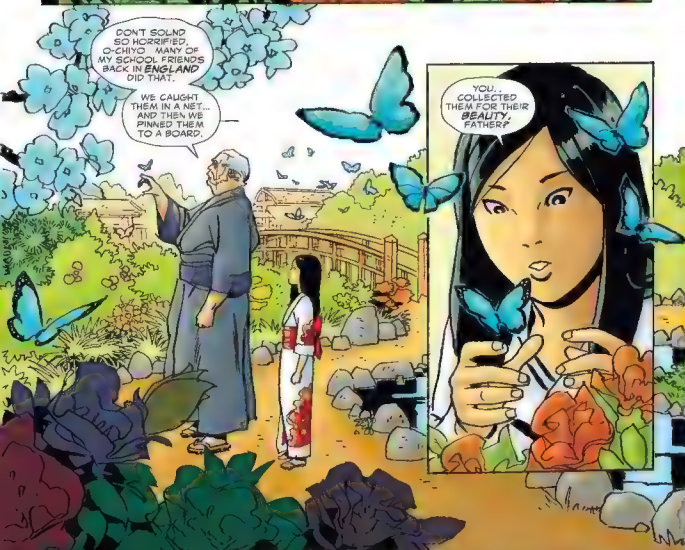
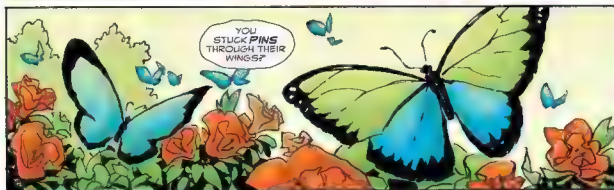
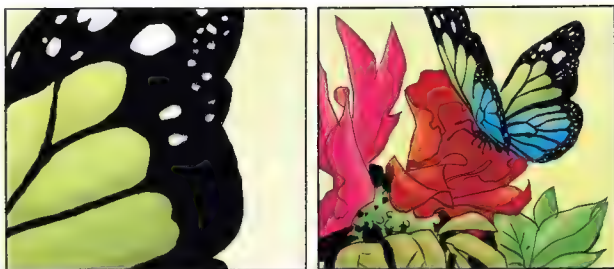
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4 of 5

MILLIGAN  
PARLOV  
LOUGHRIDGE

"DON'T THINK YOU'LL  
BE THE FIRST MAN I'VE  
KILLED ON MY BED."

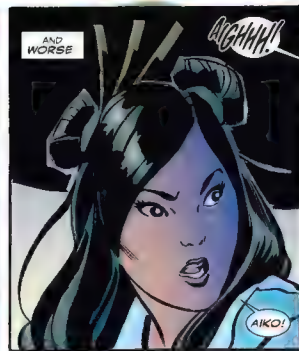
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浪人

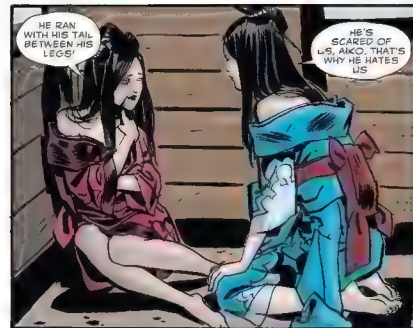


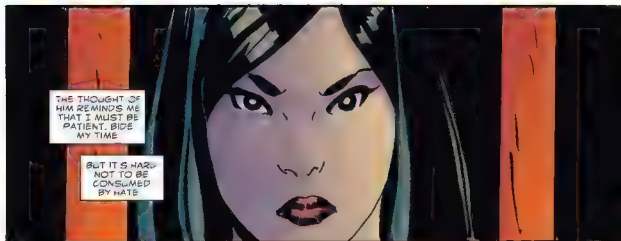




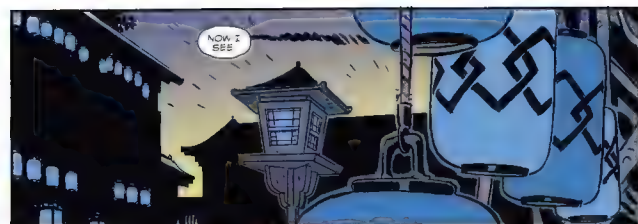
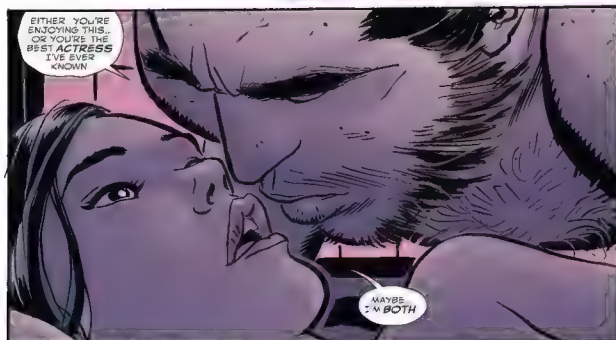
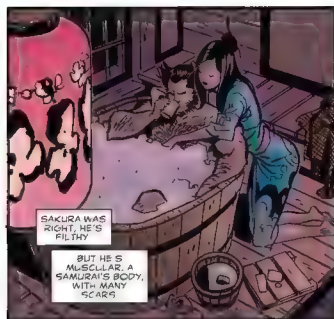


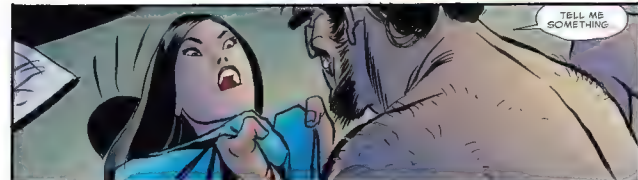
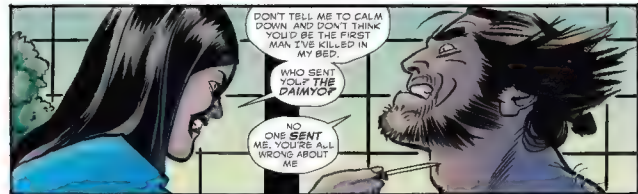
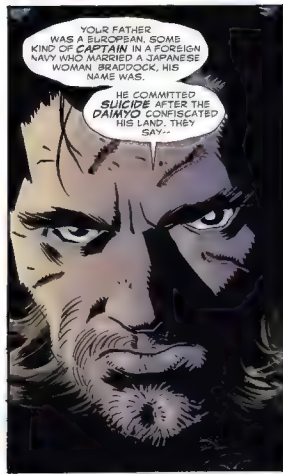






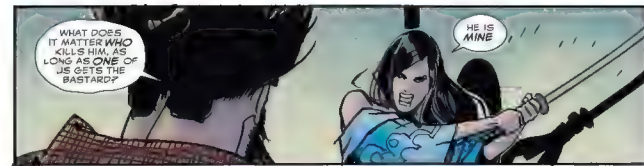




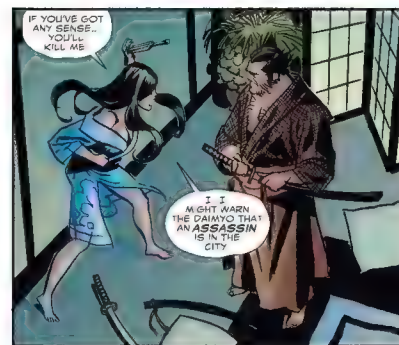
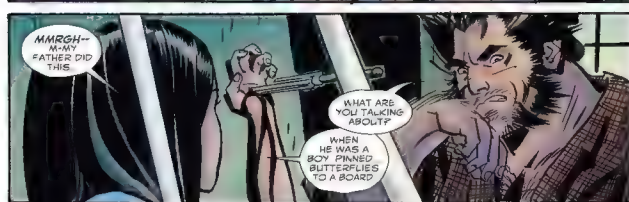
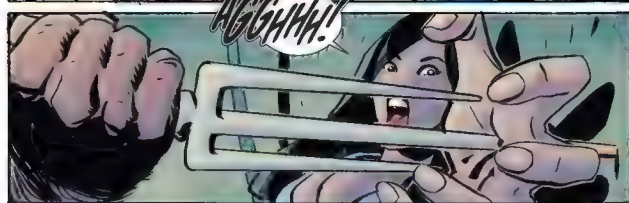












A FEW HOURS HAVE PASSED...



AND I STILL  
HAVEN'T WARNED  
THE DAIMYO  
ABOUT THE  
ASSASSIN



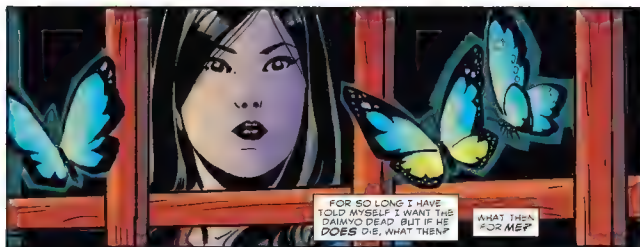
WHY SHOULD I TRY  
TO STOP THE RONIN  
TAKING HIS VENGEANCE?  
WHAT DOES IT MATTER,  
AND KILLS THE DAIMYO?

DO I WANT  
THE DAIMYO TO  
DIE OR NOT?



I SAW SOMETHING  
OF THIS CONFUSION  
IN THE RONIN'S  
WEARY EYES.

THE TRAVELLER'S  
FEAR OF WHAT  
LIES BEYOND  
THEIR DESTINATION



FOR SO LONG I HAVE  
TOLD MYSELF I WANT THE  
DAIMYO DEAD, BUT IF HE  
DOES DIE, WHAT THEN?

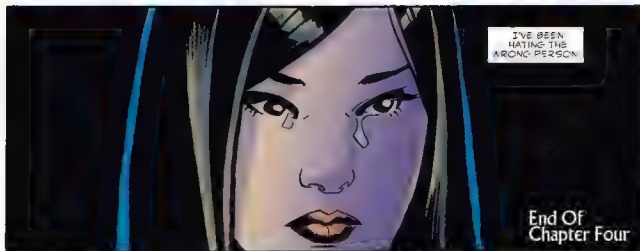
WHAT THEN  
FOR ME?



PERHAPS I'LL BE  
FORCED TO FACE  
A TRUTH THAT THE  
RONIN SAW.



THAT  
ALL THESE  
YEARS



I'VE BEEN  
HATING THE  
WRONG PERSON.

End Of  
Chapter Four



# RONIN

浪人

## Chapter Four: The Way Of The Butterfly

Writer:  
*Peter  
Milligan*

Art:  
*Goran  
Parlov*

Color Art:  
*Lee  
Loughridge*

Letters:  
*VC's Joe  
Caramagna*

Cover:  
*David Aja*

Variant Cover:  
*David Mack*

Editors:  
*Sebastian Gierner*

Editor in Chief:  
*Axel Alonso*

Chief Creative  
Officers:  
*Joe Quesada*

Publisher:  
*Dan Buckley*

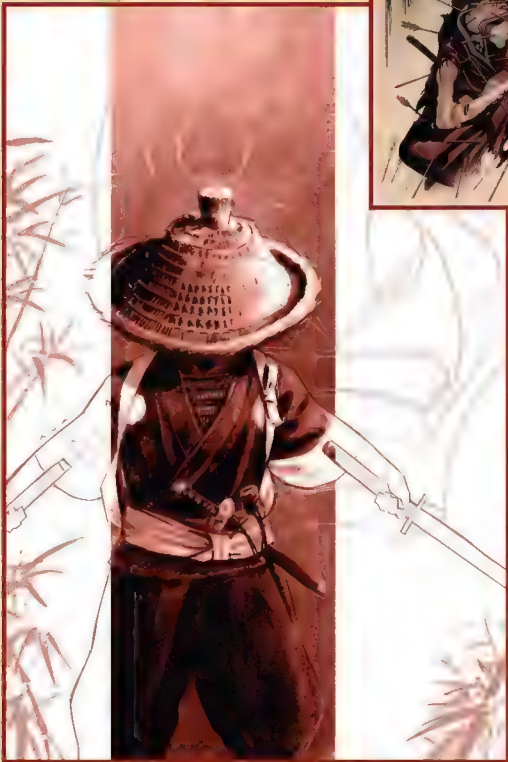
Exec. Producer:  
*Alan Fine*

Character  
Sketches by

*Goran  
Parlov*



NEXT  
WEEK:  
DEADPOOL!



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5 RONIN #5

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MILLIGAN  
FERNANDEZ  
LOUGHRIDGE

"OH, IT HAD  
THE SHAPE OF A MAN.  
BUT IT WASN'T A MAN.  
NOT ANYMORE..."

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O  
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5  
RONIN™  
浪人

# RONIN

## 浪人

### Chapter Five: The Way Of The Fool

Writer:  
*Peter  
Milligan*

Art:  
*Leandro  
Fernandez*

Color Art:  
*Lee  
Loughridge*

Letters:  
*VC's Joe  
Caramagna*

Cover:  
*David Aja*

Variant Cover:  
*Ed McGuinness  
and Morry  
Hollowell*

Editor:  
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Editor in Chief:  
*Axel Alonso*

Chief Creative  
Officers:  
*Joe Quesada*

Publisher:  
*Dan Buckley*

Exec. Producer:  
*Alan Fine*







THEY ALL  
FEAR ME.  
PERHAPS SOME  
EVEN ENVY ME.

IF ONLY THEY  
KNEW THAT I  
ENVIED THEM.

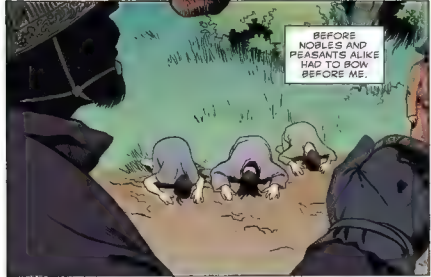
THAT THE ONLY  
THING THAT BRINGS  
ME ANY HAPPINESS  
IS THIS.

THE CRIES,  
THE DANGER,  
THE THRILL OF  
THE HUNT.

REMINING  
ME OF SIMPLER  
DAYS.



BEFORE I HAD  
LANDS TO MAINTAIN,  
ARMIES TO CONTROL.  
CONCERNING TO  
SATISFY.

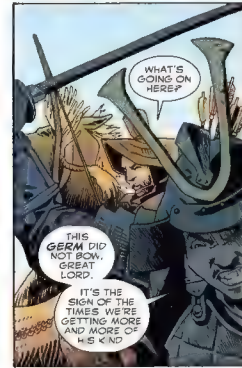


BEFORE  
NOBLES AND  
PEASANTS ALIKE  
HAD TO BOW  
BEFORE ME.



PEASANT!  
YOU MUST  
HUMBLE YOURSELF  
BEFORE THE  
DARINYO!

ILL-  
MANNERED  
LOUT!



WHAT'S  
GOING ON  
HERE?

THIS  
GERM DID  
NOT BOW,  
GREAT  
LORD.

IT'S THE  
SIGN OF THE  
TIMES. WE'RE  
GETTING MORE  
AND MORE OF  
HIS KIND.



SPEAK, MAN.  
WHY DID YOU NOT  
BOW BEFORE  
YOUR DAINYO?  
YOU KNOW THE  
RULES.



HEY,  
MAN, NICE  
STALLION.

IS IT  
TRUE WHAT  
THEY SAY ABOUT  
GUYS WITH BIG  
HORSES?

I SEE SOMETHING  
REMARKABLE IN THE  
FOOL'S EXPRESSION.

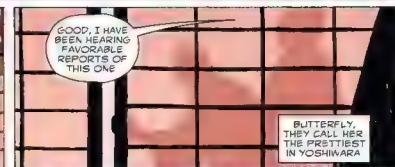
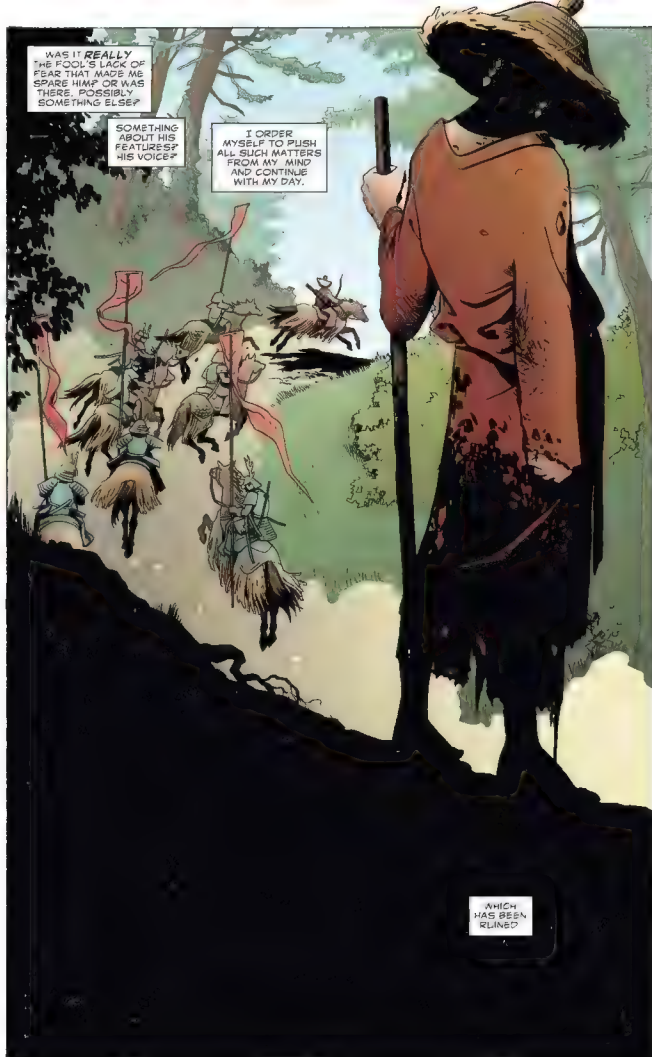


HE IS A  
FOOL, BUT HE  
HAS SOMETHING  
NONE OF THE  
REST OF YOU  
POSSESS.

HE DOES  
NOT CRINGE  
IN FEAR AT  
THE SIGHT  
OF ME.



TODAY  
I SHOW  
VENGEANCE.  
BUT KNOW  
THAT THE NEXT  
TIME YOU DISHONOR  
ME I SHALL FEED  
YOU TO MY  
DOGS.

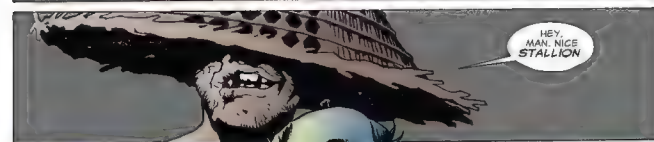
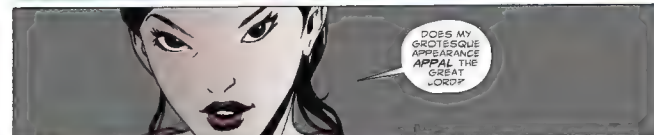
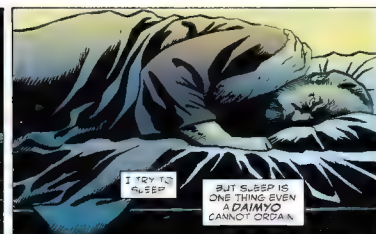






DOES MY GROTESQUE APPEARANCE APPAL THE DAIMYO?

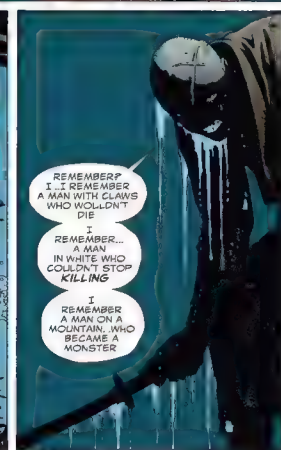
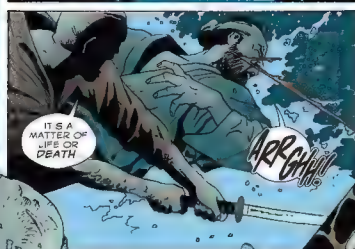
SHE SCARES ME, RIDICULOUS THE DAIMYO, SCARED OF A YOUNG THING LIKE HER.



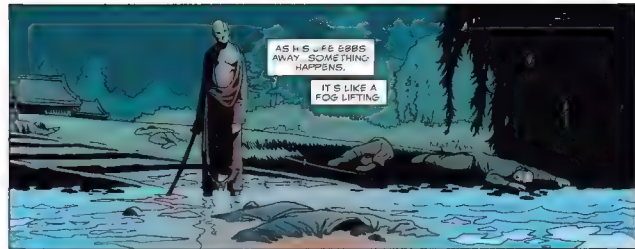
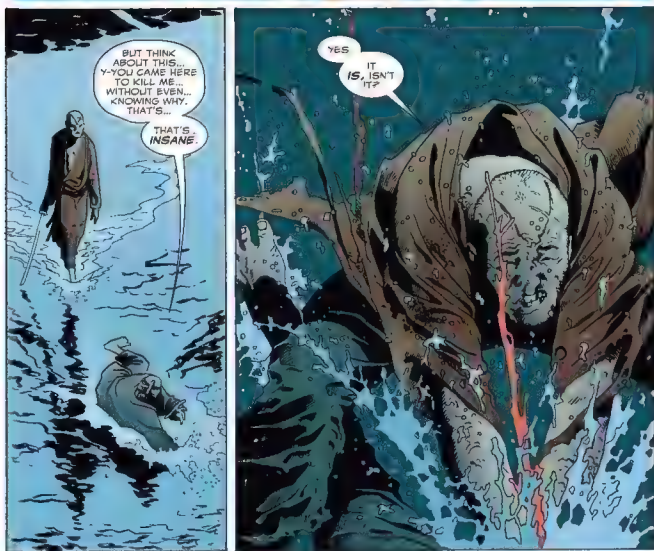
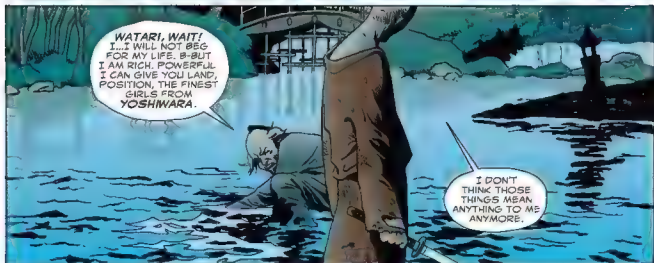














IT'S THE  
STENCH THAT  
WOKED ME.  
  
THE FOULEST  
STENCH YOU  
CAN IMAGINE.

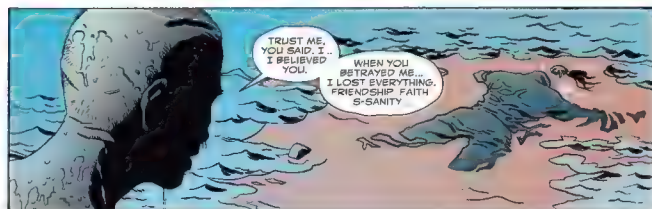


THE THING  
THAT CRAWLED  
OUT OF THERE  
LOOKED LIKE  
A MAN.  
  
OH, IT  
HAD THE  
SHAPE  
OF A MAN.



BUT IT  
WASN'T A MAN.  
NOT REALLY.

NOT  
ANY LONGER



TRUST ME,  
YOU SAID, I...  
I BELIEVED  
YOU.

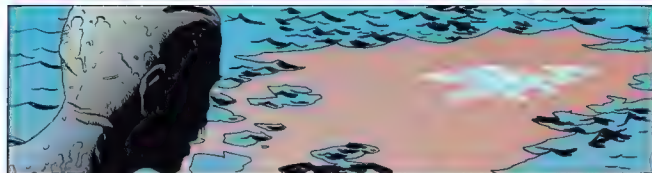
WHEN YOU  
BETRAYED ME...  
I LOST EVERYTHING.  
FRIENDSHIP. FAITH.  
S-SANITY



I  
WANDERED FOR  
YEARS...B-BECAME  
A TEASHP  
BUFFOON.

I...I  
NEVER EVEN  
KNEW...WHETHER  
THIS WAS A NECESSARY  
DISGUISE IN A  
DANGEROUS NEW  
WORLD...OR...

OR  
MY TRUE  
NATURE...



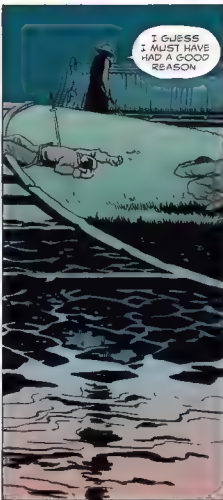
THE  
DAIMYO...IS  
DEAD



I...I THINK  
I KILLED  
HIM.  
  
BUT I  
DON'T  
REMEMBER  
WHY

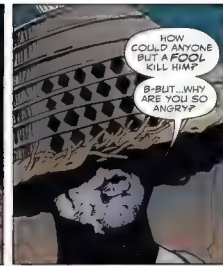
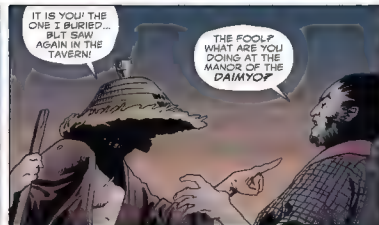


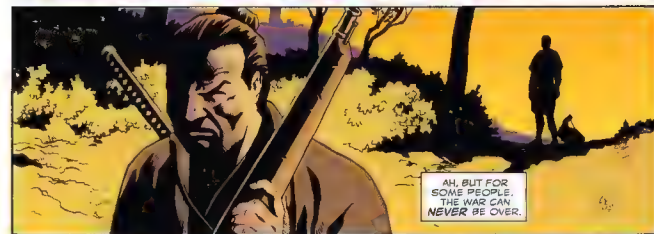
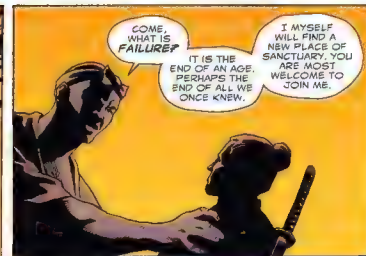
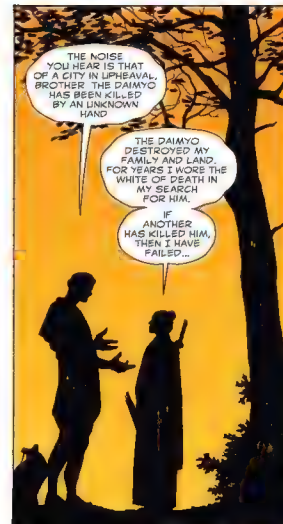
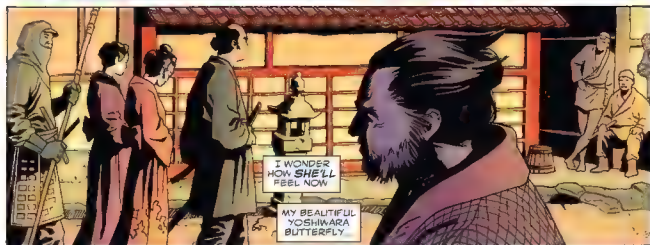
DO  
YOU KNOW  
WHY?  
  
DO YOU  
KNOW WHY  
I KILLED  
HIM?



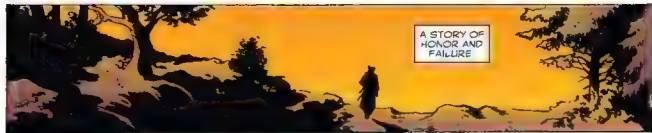
I GUESS  
I MUST HAVE  
HAD A GOOD  
REASON













ANDREYKO  
PARKER  
HAHN  
KESEL  
MADPENCIL

**BATMAN**  
'66

MEETS

*Wonder  
Woman*  
'77

CHAPTER  
**01**

ALL  
RED







# BATMAN '66

MEETS

# Wonder Woman '77

BWHAH!



## CHAPTER 1

WRITERS

MARC ANDREYKO  
JEFF PARKER

PENCILER

DAVID HAHN

INKER

KARL KESEL

COLORIST

MADPENCIL

LETTERER

WES ABBOTT

COVER

MICHAEL AND  
LAURA ALLRED

EDITOR

KRISTY QUINN

ASSISTANT EDITOR

ROB LEVIN



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BATMAN CREATED BY BOB KANE WITH BILL FINGER. INSPIRED BY THE 1960s BATMAN TELEVISION SERIES.  
WONDER WOMAN CREATED BY WILLIAM MOULTON MARSHALL



ME-OWW!  
I'M IN.



PURRRRRLOINED  
IN THREE MINUTES. THAT'S  
A NEW RECORD.



SHMF! I THOUGHT  
IT WOULD OPEN UP  
TO HAVE JEWELS  
OR SOMETHING  
VALUABLE.

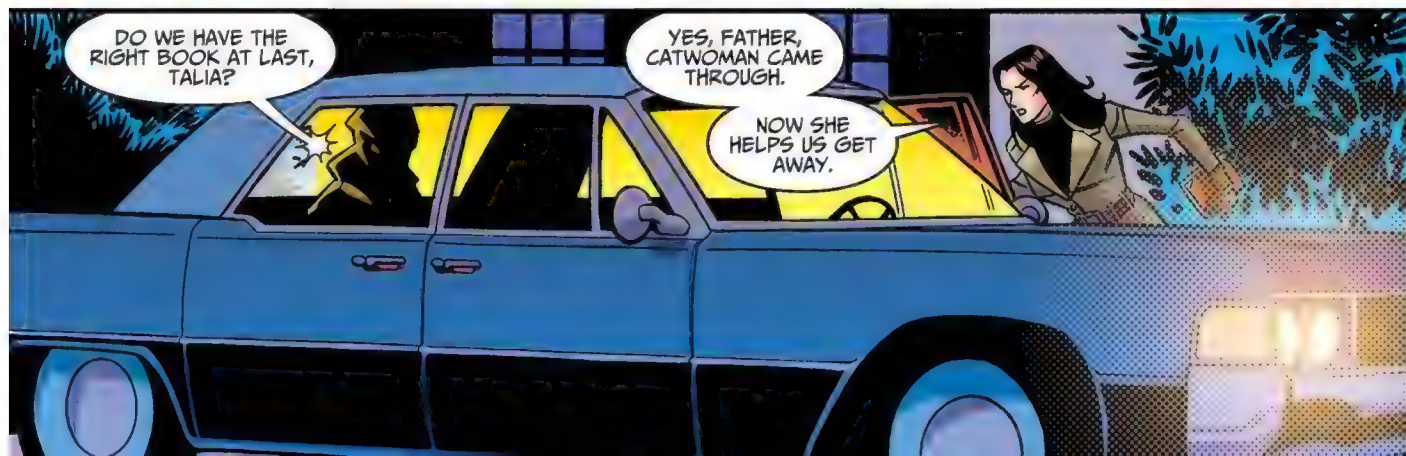
OH  
WELL, THE  
CUSTOMER'S  
ALWAYS  
RIGHT--  
WHEN THEY  
PAY THIS  
MUCH.

















HOLY HIEROGLYPHICS,  
THAT LOOKS REALLY  
OLD.

IT IS.



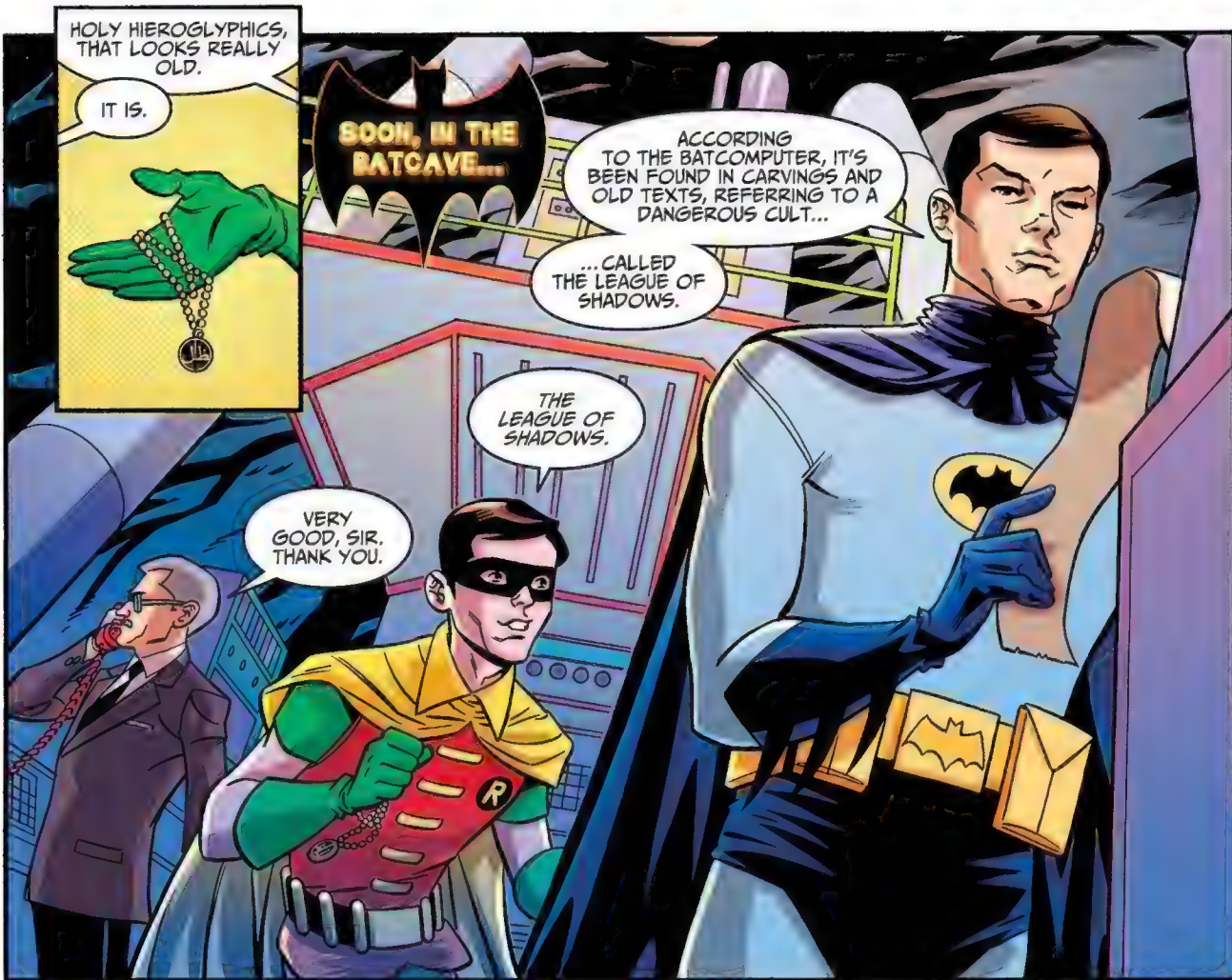
SOON, IN THE  
BATCAVE...

ACCORDING  
TO THE BATCOMPUTER, IT'S  
BEEN FOUND IN CARVINGS AND  
OLD TEXTS, REFERRING TO A  
DANGEROUS CULT...

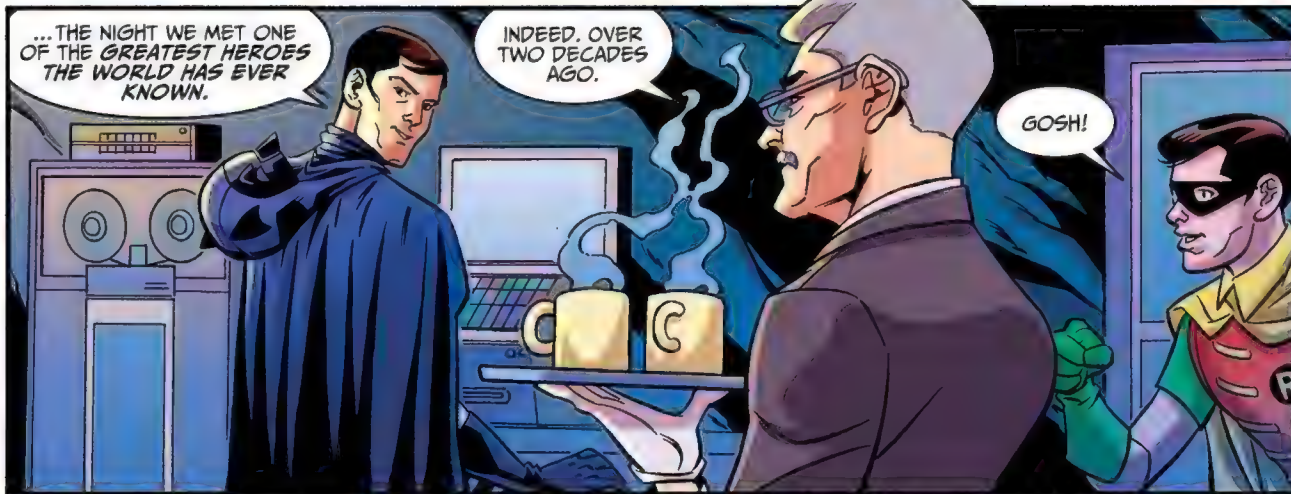
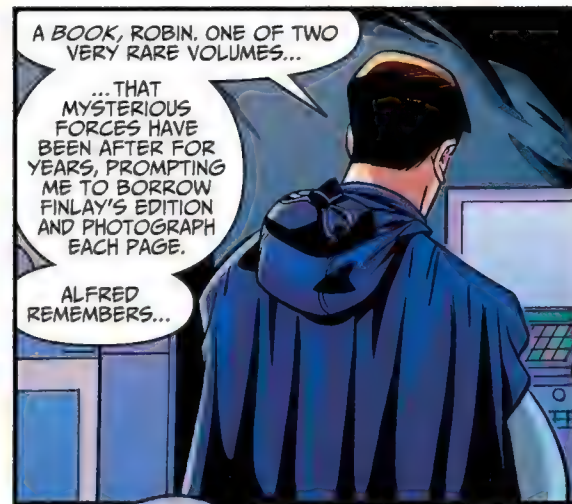
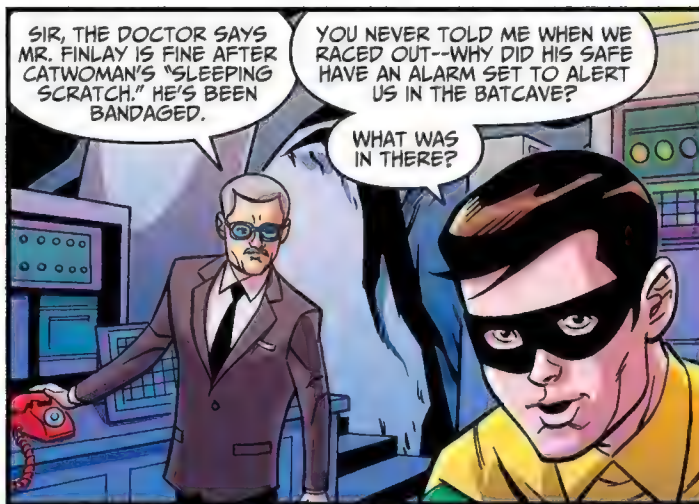
...CALLED  
THE LEAGUE OF  
SHADOWS.

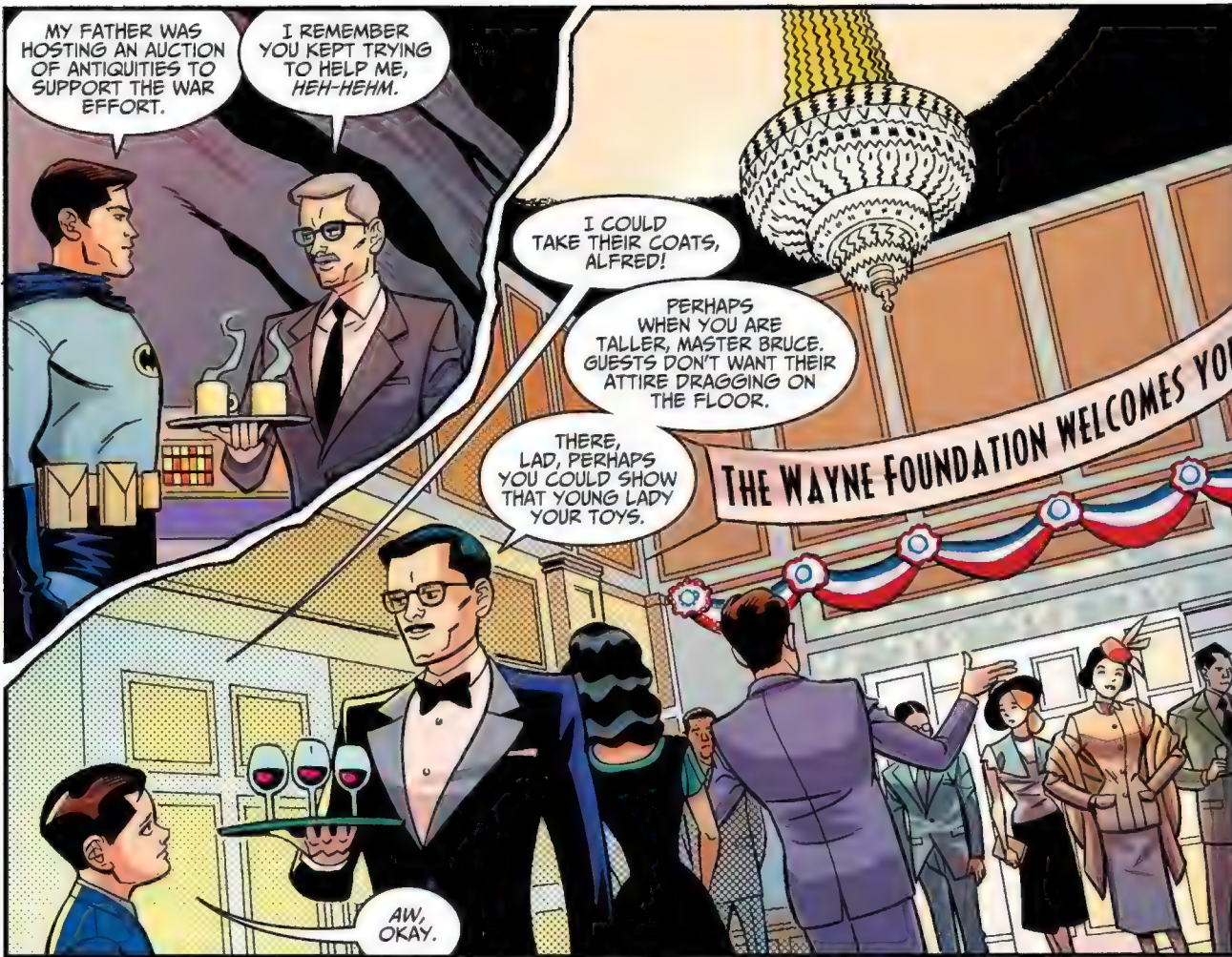
THE  
LEAGUE OF  
SHADOWS.

VERY  
GOOD, SIR.  
THANK YOU.









MY FATHER WAS HOSTING AN AUCTION OF ANTIQUITIES TO SUPPORT THE WAR EFFORT.

I REMEMBER YOU KEPT TRYING TO HELP ME, HEH-HEHM.

I COULD TAKE THEIR COATS, ALFRED!

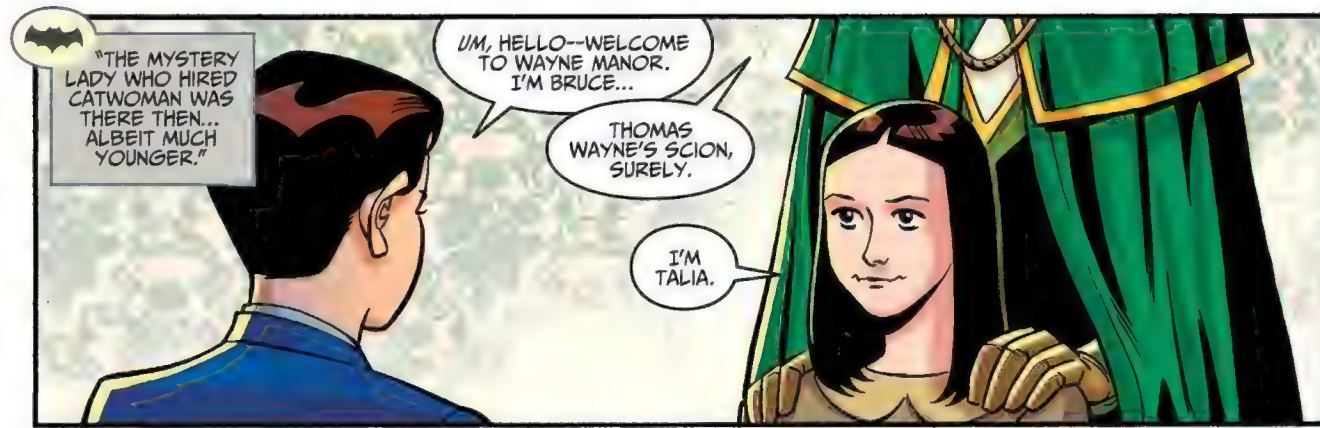
PERHAPS WHEN YOU ARE TALLER, MASTER BRUCE. GUESTS DON'T WANT THEIR ATTIRE DRAGGING ON THE FLOOR.

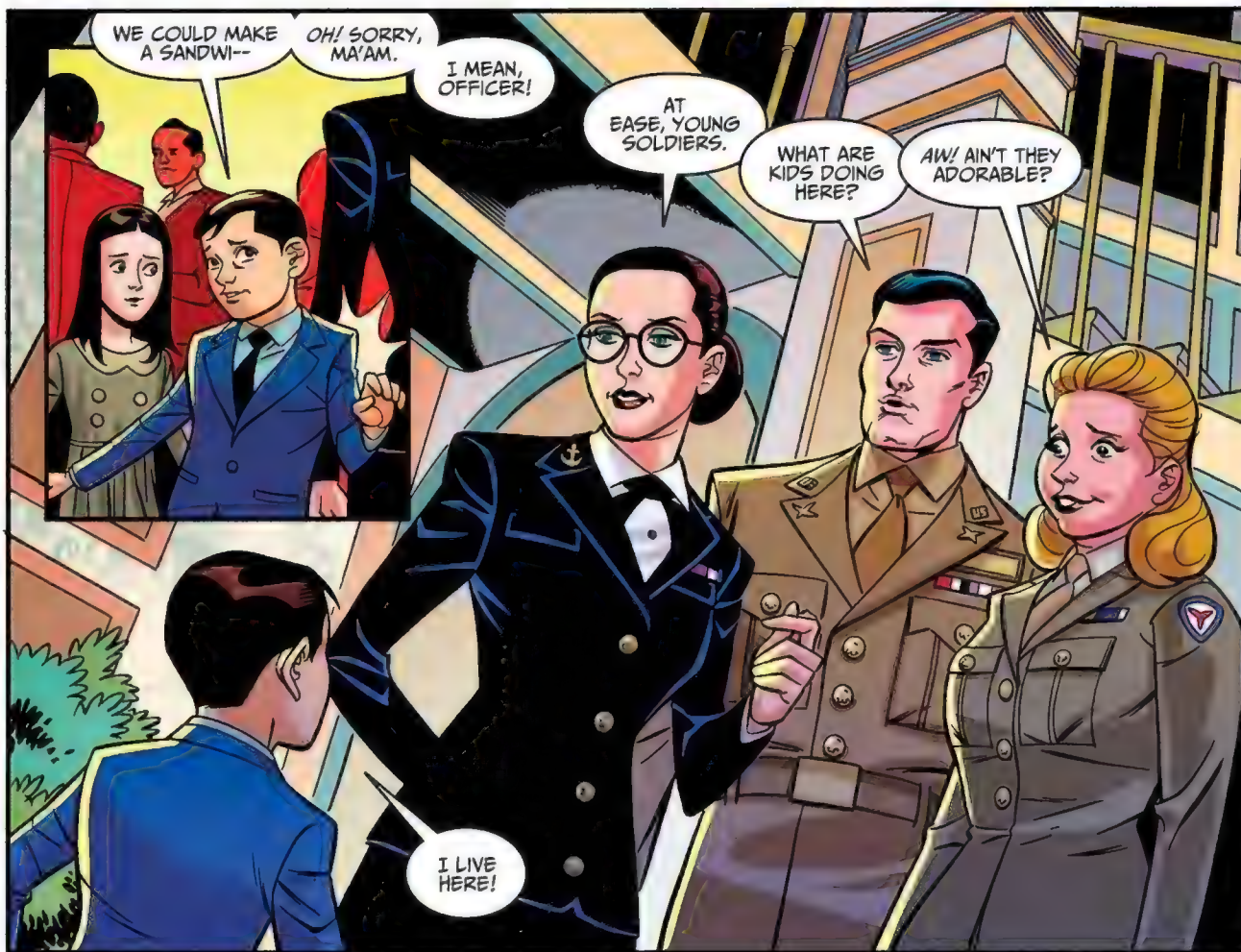
THERE, LAD, PERHAPS YOU COULD SHOW THAT YOUNG LADY YOUR TOYS.

THE WAYNE FOUNDATION WELCOMES YOU

AW, OKAY.











"I HAD NO CHANCE TO  
WARN THE WAYNES ONCE  
THE AUCTION BEGAN.

"IT WAS SUCH A SMASHING  
SUCCESS I THOUGHT THE  
THREAT A FALSE ALARM."

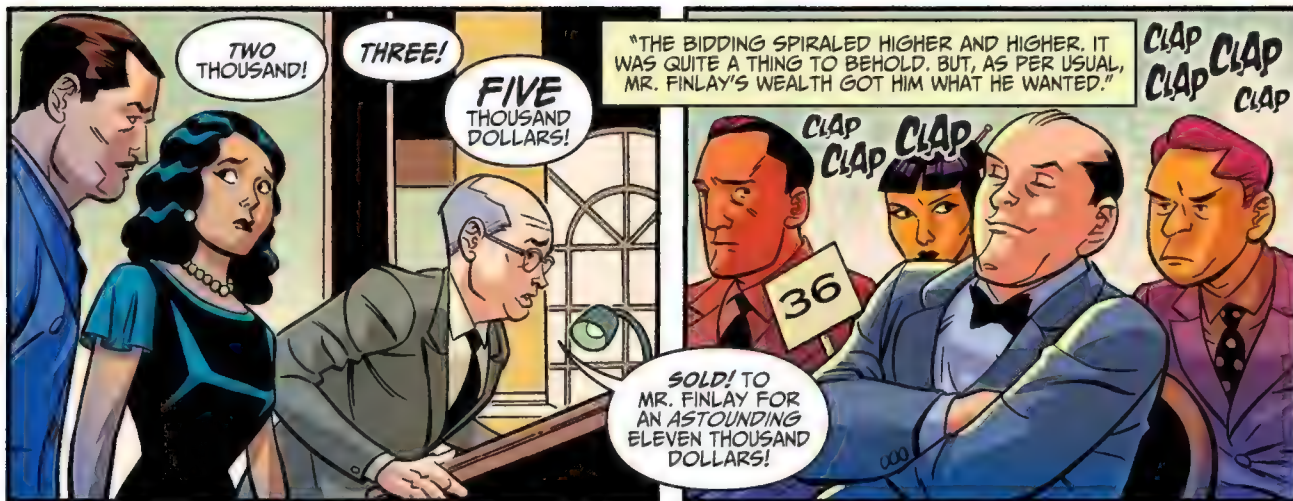


NEXT, LOT 49 IS TWO  
RARE VOLUMES CALLED  
LOST WORLD OF THE  
ANCIENTS. WE'LL START  
THE BIDDING AT--

SEVEN  
HUNDRED!





















"THAT'S WHEN  
I REJOINED  
THE PARTY,  
TO FIND THAT  
TERRIFYING  
SCENE."



NAZI  
SOLDIERS!

THEY'VE  
GOT THE BOOKS  
MY FATHER  
WANTED.

WE  
SHOULD  
HIDE.



IF WE GET THE  
BOOKS AWAY,  
THEY'LL FORGET  
ABOUT OUR  
PARENTS!

SOMEONE'S  
COMING--



WHAT'S THE  
OTHER OFFICER  
DOING?



"WHAT I SAW NEXT WAS  
THE MOST INCREDIBLE  
THING I'D EXPERIENCED  
UP UNTIL THEN. THAT  
LADY OFFICER WAS NO  
ORDINARY YEOMAN!"

GOSH!

TO BE  
CONTINUED!



"KING SETS A NEW STAGE AND TONE FOR BATMAN AND GOTHAM...  
A NEW STATUS QUO."

—PopMatters

"TOM KING CRAFTS AN INCREDIBLE STORY."

—Nerdist

## BATMAN VOL. 1: I AM GOTHAM

*The First Graphic Novel  
Collection of the  
Best-Selling Series*

Written by

**TOM KING**

Art by

**DAVID FINCH  
AND MIKEL JANIN**

JANUARY 2017

THE NEXT EPIC STARTS HERE!







PARKER  
ANDREYKO  
HAHN  
KESEL  
MADPENCIL

**BATMAN**  
'66

MEETS

*Wonder  
Woman*  
'77

CHAPTER  
**02**

ALL  
RED





# BATMAN '66 MEETS Wonder Woman '77



CHAPTER  
02

# BATMAN '66

# MEETS Wonder Woman '77



## CHAPTER 2

WRITERS  
**JEFF PARKER**  
**MARC ANDREYKO**

PENCILLER  
**DAVID HAHN**

INKER  
**KARL KESEL**

COLORIST  
**MADPENCIL**

LETTERER  
**WES ABBOTT**

COVER  
**MICHAEL AND  
LAURA ALLRED**

EDITOR  
**KRISTY QUINN**

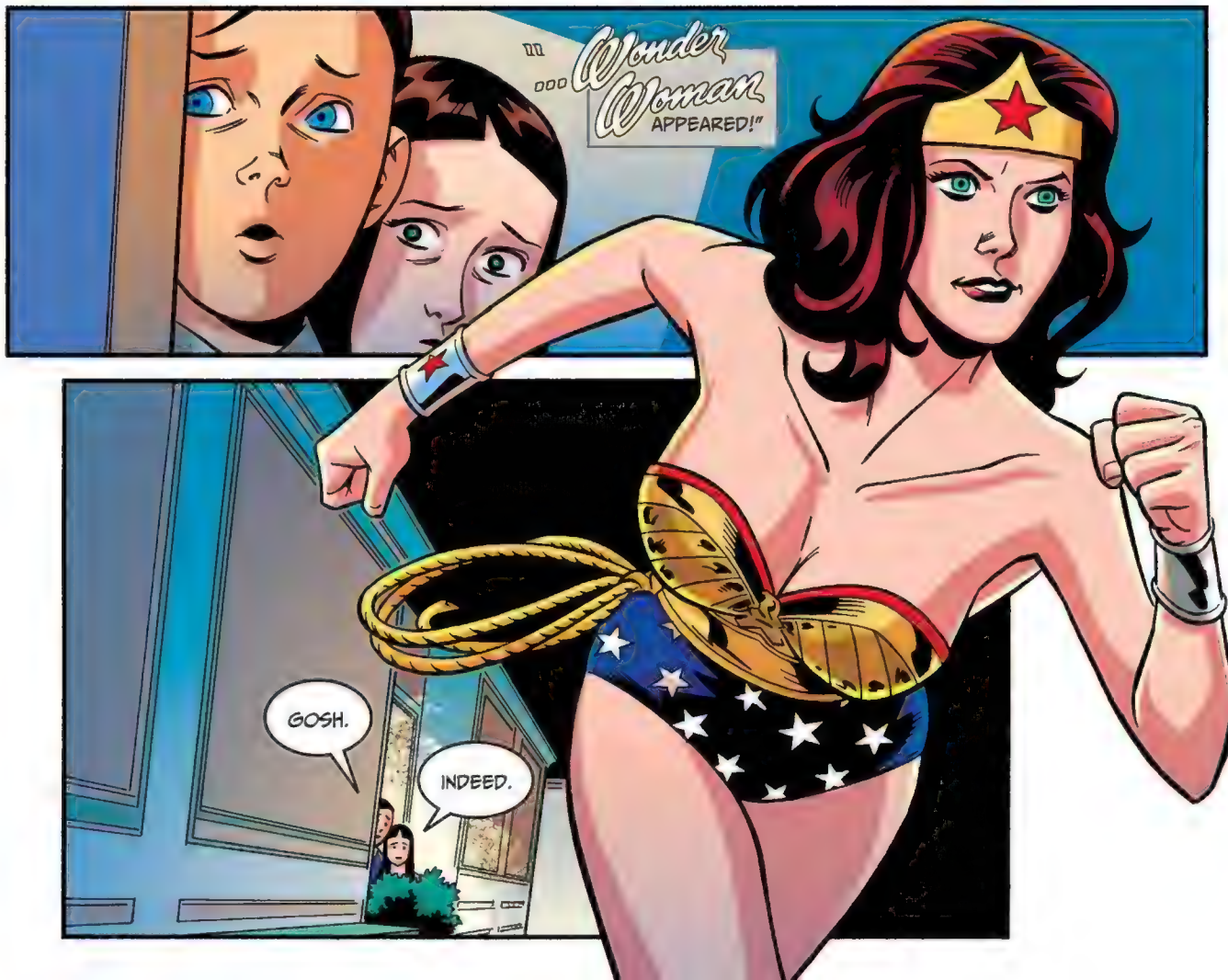
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**ROB LEVIN**



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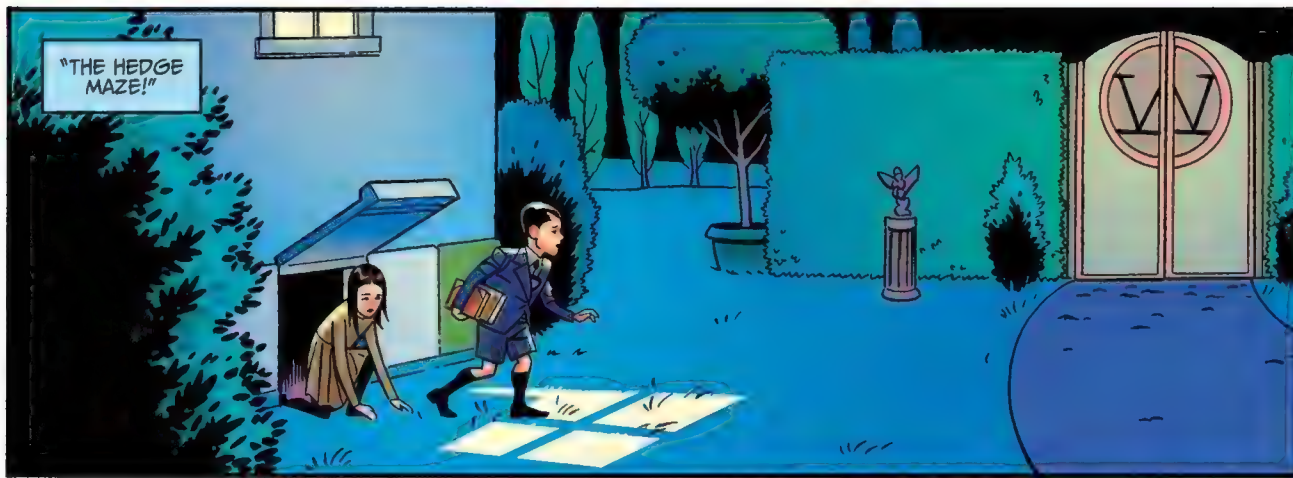










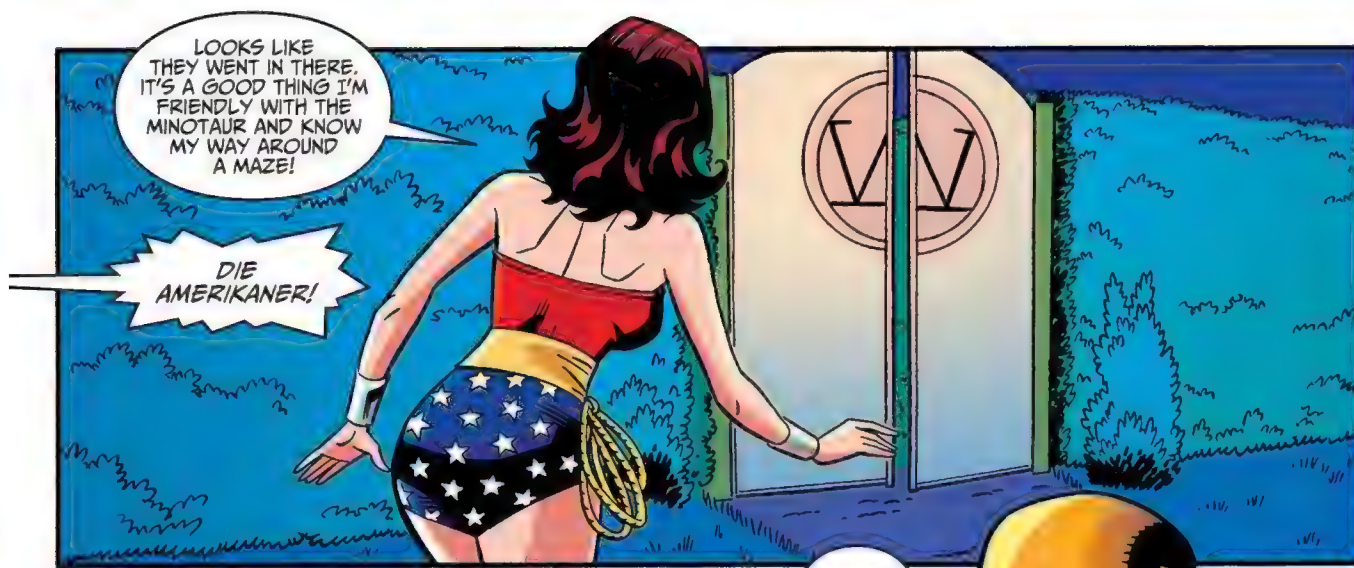






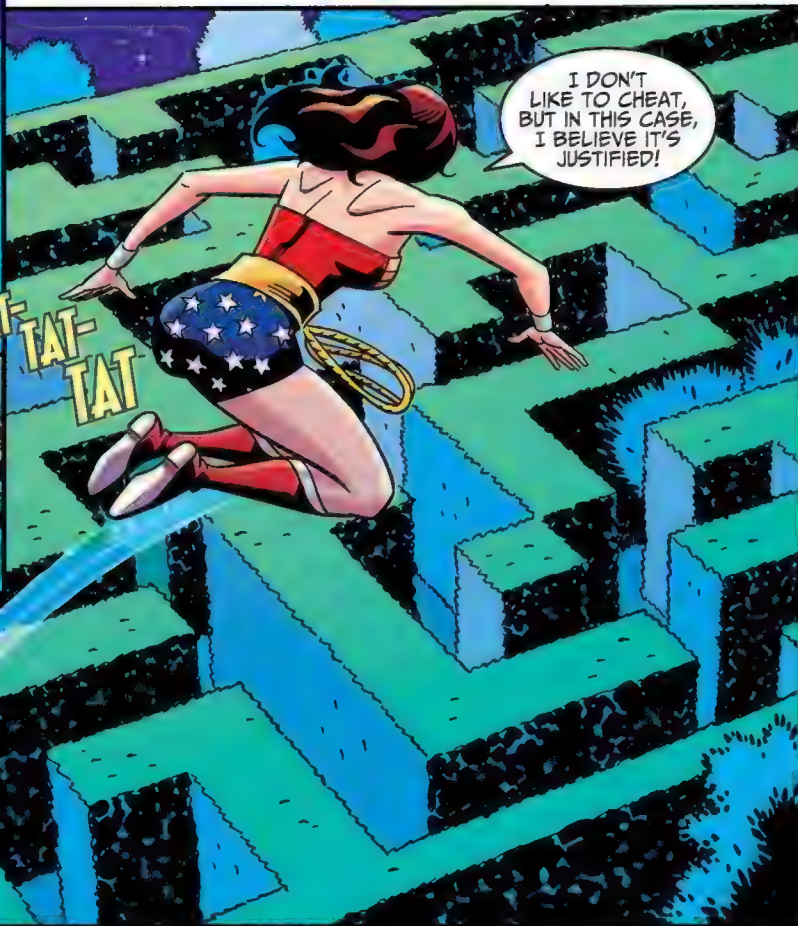


























NOW,  
WHERE  
ARE THOSE  
BOOKS?!

**NEXT TIME:**

**WILL YOUNG BRUCE  
LOSE HIS HEAD OVER  
A GIRL AND SOME BOOKS?**

**WILL WONDER WOMAN  
STOP THE ENIGMATIC  
RA'S AL GUL?**

**TUNE IN NEXT ISSUE  
FOR THE CONCLUSION OF:  
THE WAR AT HOME!**





"SOME REALLY THRILLING ARTWORK THAT ESTABLISHES  
INCREDIBLE SCOPE AND DANGER."

-IGN

"A BIG SUMMER BLOCKBUSTER FILM IN A COMIC BOOK FORMAT."

-Comic Book Resources

## JUSTICE LEAGUE VOL. 1: THE EXTINCTION MACHINES

The First Graphic Novel  
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Best-Selling Series

Written by  
**BRYAN  
PERCY**

Art by  
**TONY S. DANIEL**

JANUARY 2017

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ANDREYKO  
PARKER  
HAHN  
KESEL  
MADPENCIL



MEETS

*Wonder  
Woman '77*



CHAPTER

03





### CHAPTER 3

WRITERS  
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**JEFF PARKER**

PENCILLER  
**DAVID HAHN**

INKER  
**KARL KESEL**

COLORIST  
**MADPENCIL**

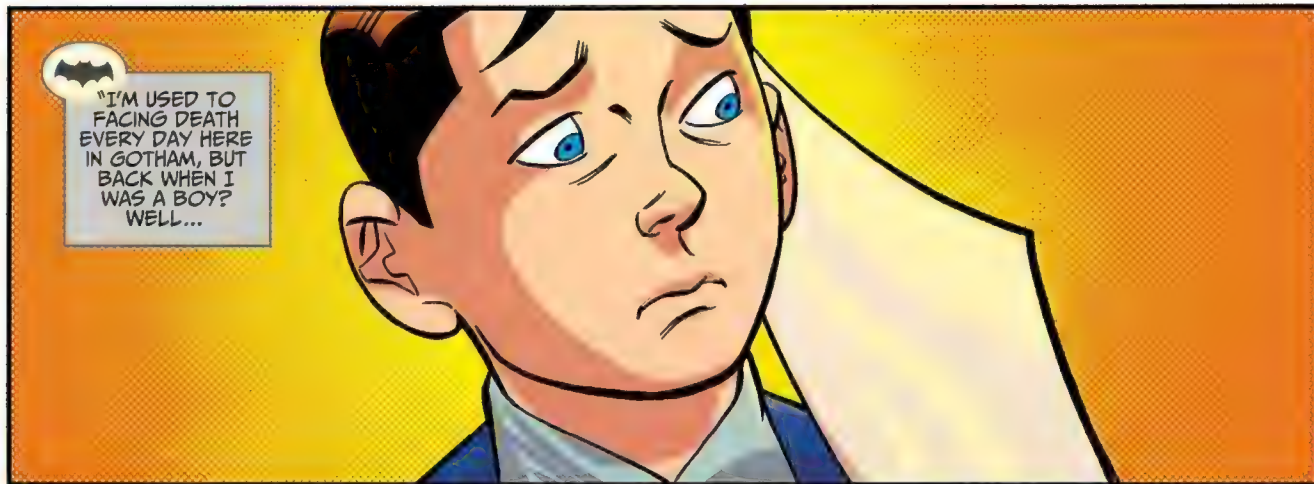
LETTERER  
**WES ABBOTT**

COVER  
**MICHAEL AND**  
**LAURA ALLRED**

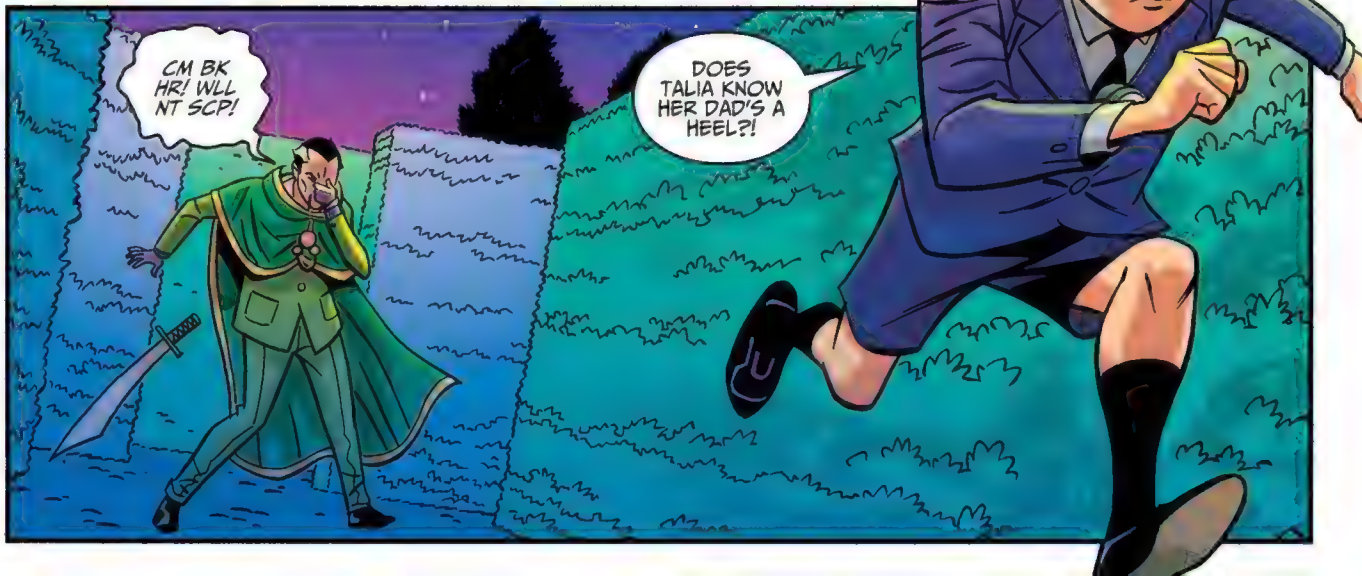
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**KRISTY QUINN**

ASSISTANT EDITOR  
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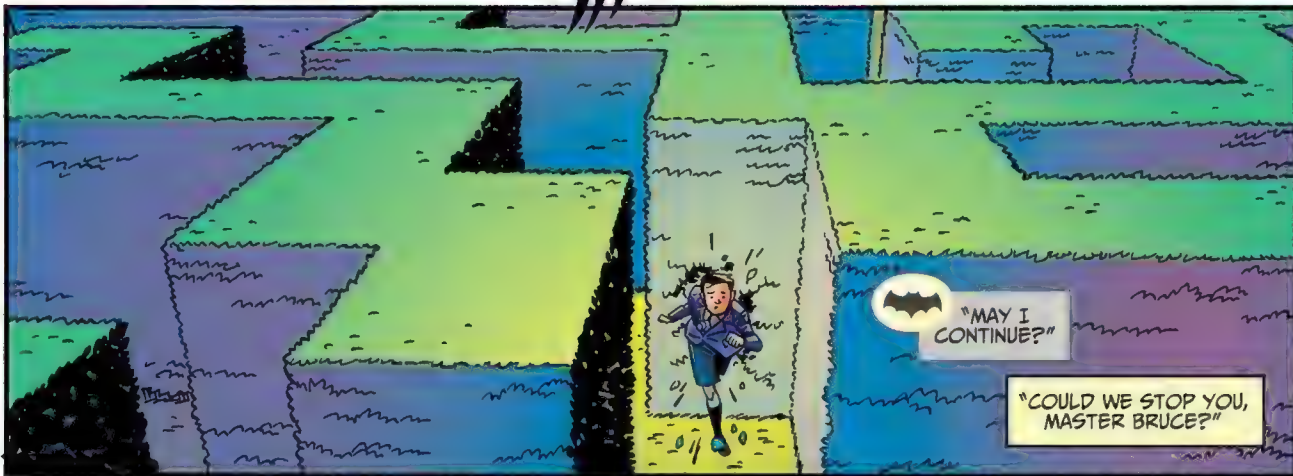


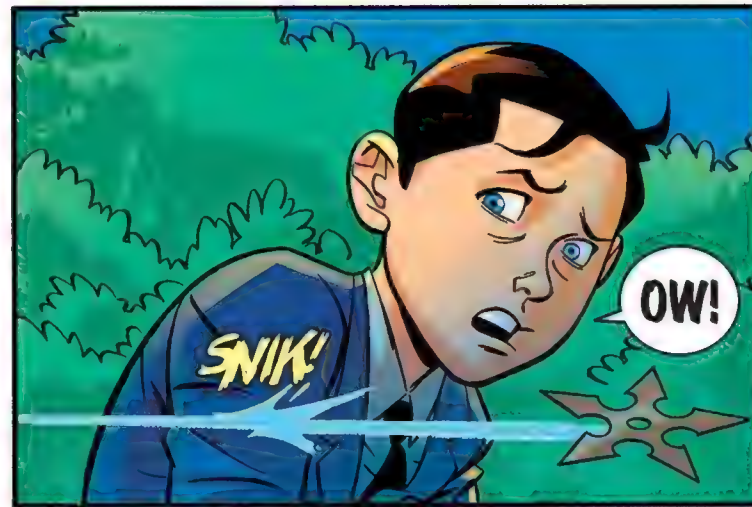




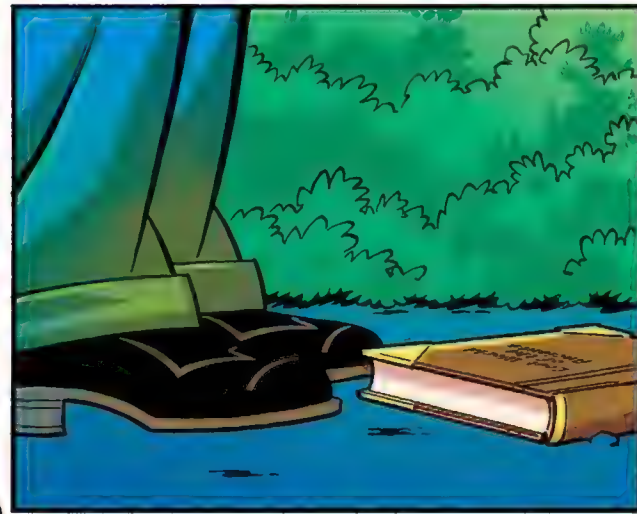












YOUNG MISTER  
WAYNE IS MORE  
DETERMINED THAN  
I EXPECTED...

...NO MATTER.  
THE DEMON'S HEAD  
ALWAYS GETS WHAT  
IT WANTS.













































"KING SETS A NEW STAGE AND TONE FOR BATMAN AND GOTHAM...  
A NEW STATUS QUO."

—PopMatters

"TOM KING CRAFTS AN INCREDIBLE STORY."

—Nerdist

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JANUARY 2017

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PARKER  
ANDREYKO  
HAHN  
KESEL  
MADPENCIL

**BATMAN**  
'66

MEETS

*Wonder  
Woman* '77



CHAPTER

**04**



MEETS

*Wonder Woman* '77

BWHAH!



KWHACK!

## CHAPTER 4

WRITERS

JEFF PARKER  
MARC ANDREYKO

PENCILLER

DAVID HAHN

INKER

KARL KESEL

COLORIST

MADPENCIL

LETTERER

WES ABBOTT

COVER

MICHAEL AND  
LAURA ALLRED

EDITOR

KRISTY QUINN

ASSISTANT EDITOR

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"THE FALL DIDN'T HURT ME, I  
ROLLED DOWN A SLOPE. BUT IT  
WAS THE MOST SCARED I HAD EVER  
BEEN AT THAT POINT IN MY LIFE."



AHHHHH!

HELP!  
HELLLP!



















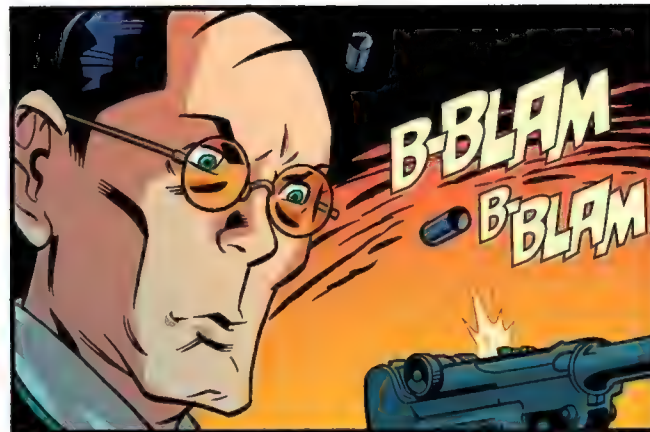














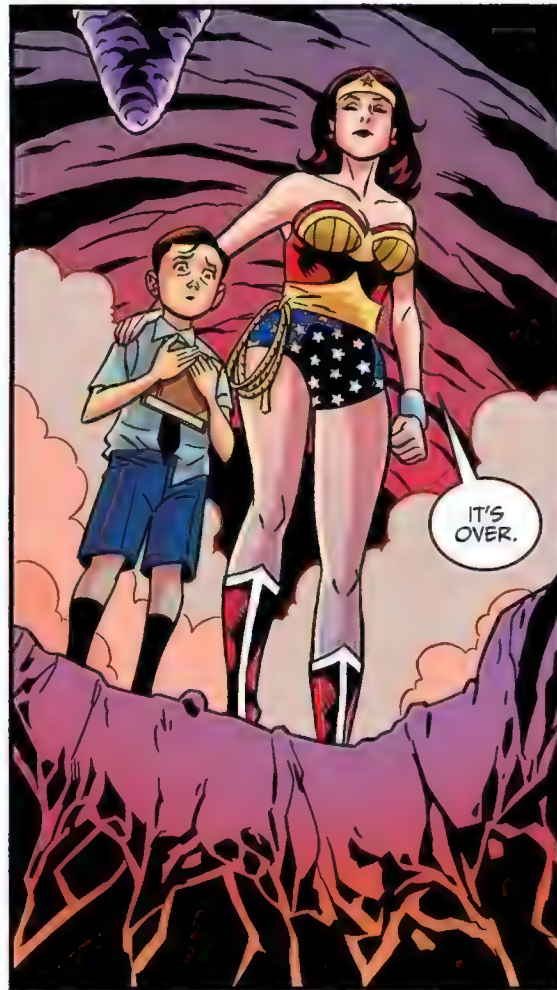






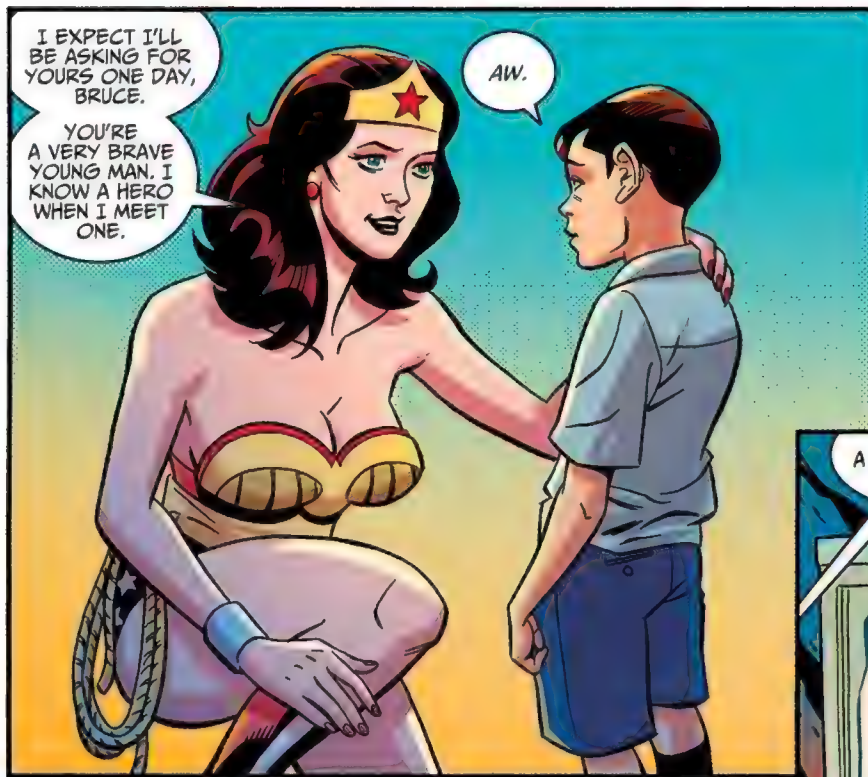




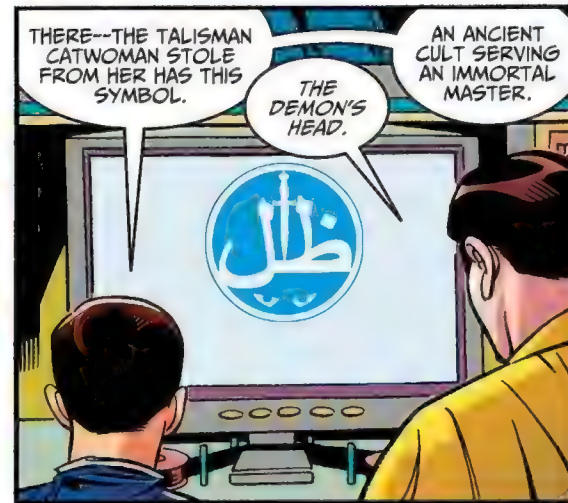
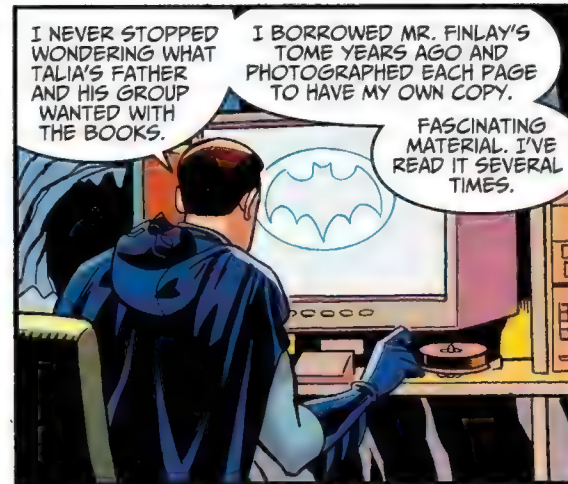


















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—Newsarama

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—Nerdist

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*Written by*

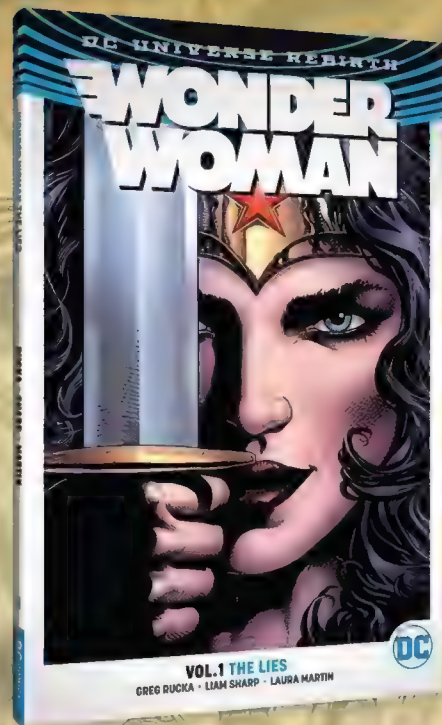
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*Art by*

LIAM SHARP

FEBRUARY 2017

THE NEXT EPIC STARTS HERE!





ANDREYKO  
PARKER  
HAHN  
KESEL  
MADPENCIL

**BATMAN**  
'66

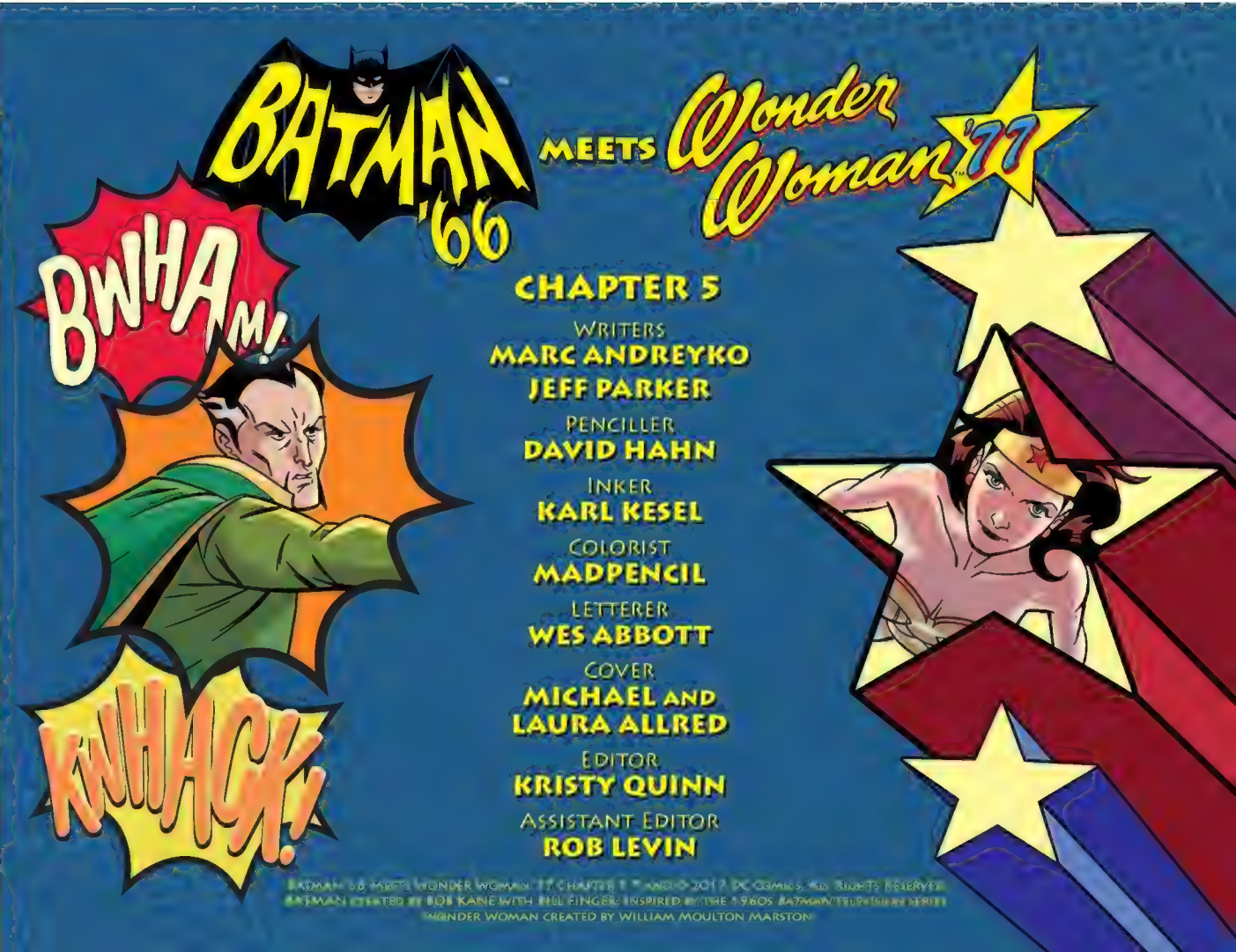
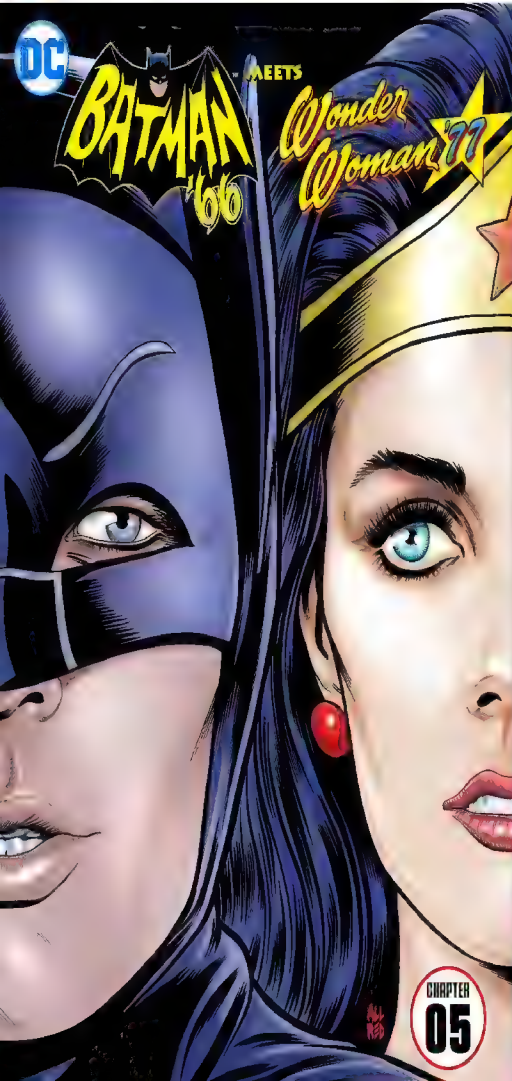
MEETS

*Wonder  
Woman* '77

CHAPTER

**05**





## CHAPTER 5

WRITERS  
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**JEFF PARKER**

PENCILLER  
**DAVID HAHN**

INKER  
**KARL KESEL**

COLORIST  
**MADPENCIL**

LETTERER  
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WHY ARE WE SO FAR AT SEA? I DON'T EVEN REMEMBER WHAT I AGREED TO.

WE ARE TRAVELING TO AN ISLAND NOT ON ANY MODERN MAPS, CATWOMAN.



COME IN,  
PARADISE ISLAND, COME IN,  
PARADISE ISLAND.

THIS IS  
THE BAT-JET  
FROM AMERICA,  
IS ANYONE  
READING ME,  
OVER.

WE ARE ON  
AN EMERGENCY  
MISSION.



A PLACE  
WHERE NO MAN  
LIVES--YOU ARE OUR  
CHAPERONE.

IN A  
MOMENT YOU  
HAVE TO TRY TO  
HAIL THEM.





WE'VE ALREADY  
SPOTTED YOU, BAT-JET.  
SLOW YOUR APPROACH.

LOOK  
OUT YOUR  
COCKPIT  
AT THREE  
O'CLOCK.

GOSH!

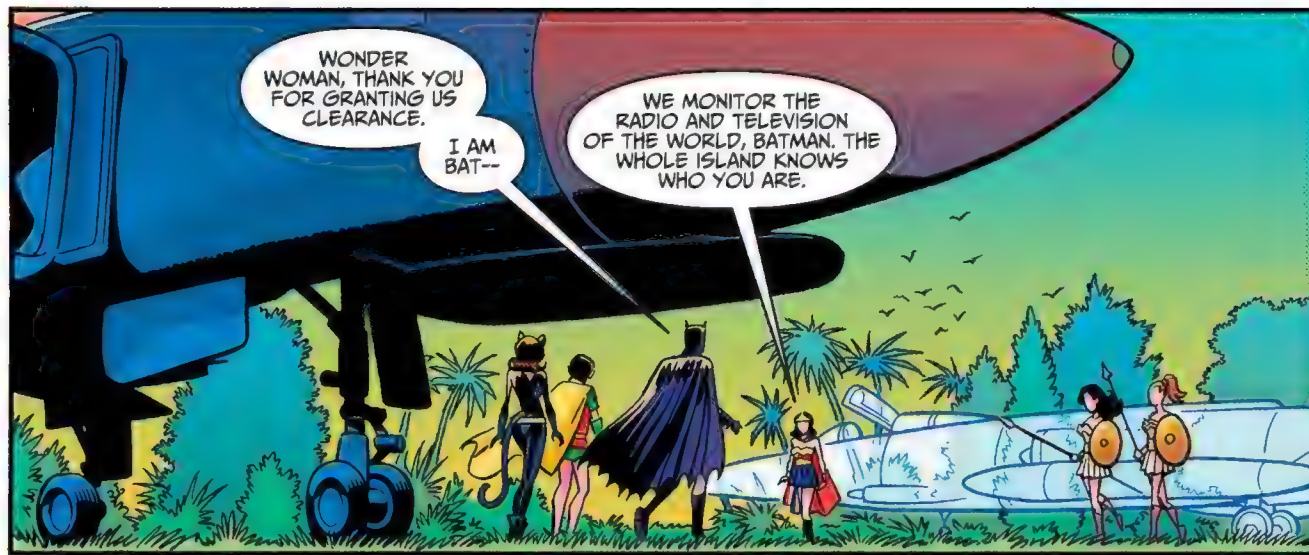


HOLY  
INVISIBLE  
PLANE!

FOLLOW ME  
DOWN. THERE'S  
ONLY ONE LANDING  
FIELD HERE.

ROGER  
THAT, WONDER  
WOMAN!





WONDER  
WOMAN, THANK YOU  
FOR GRANTING US  
CLEARANCE.

I AM  
BAT--

WE MONITOR THE  
RADIO AND TELEVISION  
OF THE WORLD, BATMAN. THE  
WHOLE ISLAND KNOWS  
WHO YOU ARE.



THANK YOU FOR OBSERVING OUR  
TRADITION OF WOMEN CHAPERONING  
ANY MALES.

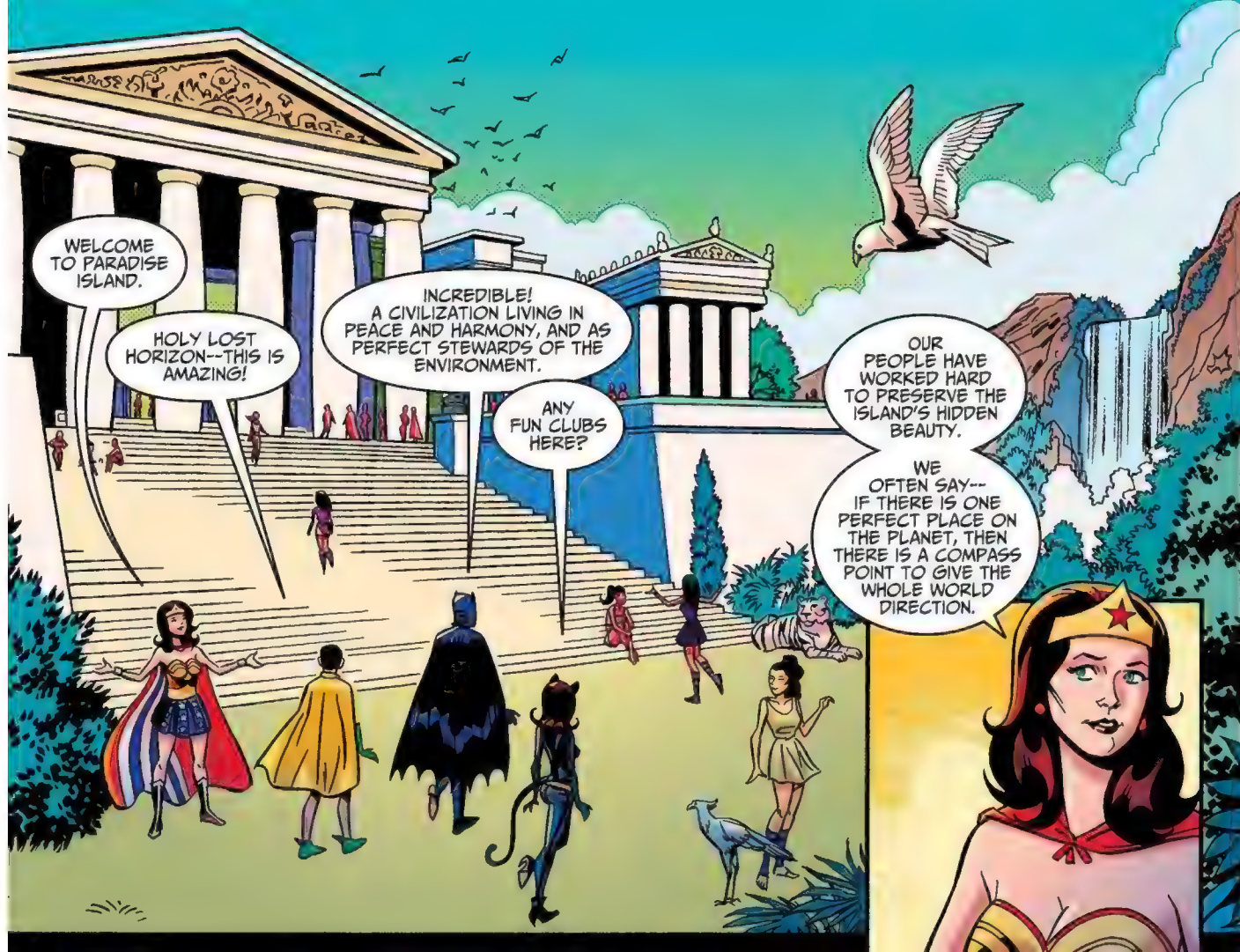
SHE MUST  
BE ANOTHER  
GREAT HERO OF  
GOTHAM?



ER, NO...THIS IS  
CATWOMAN.

THOUGH A CRIMINAL, I HAVE HOPES SHE WILL  
ONE DAY ACKNOWLEDGE THE NOBLER SIDE OF  
HERSELF I KNOW TO EXIST.

HAH  
HAHAHA  
HA HA!



WELCOME  
TO PARADISE  
ISLAND.

HOLY LOST  
HORIZON--THIS  
IS AMAZING!

INCREDIBLE!  
A CIVILIZATION LIVING IN  
PEACE AND HARMONY, AND AS  
PERFECT STEWARDS OF THE  
ENVIRONMENT.

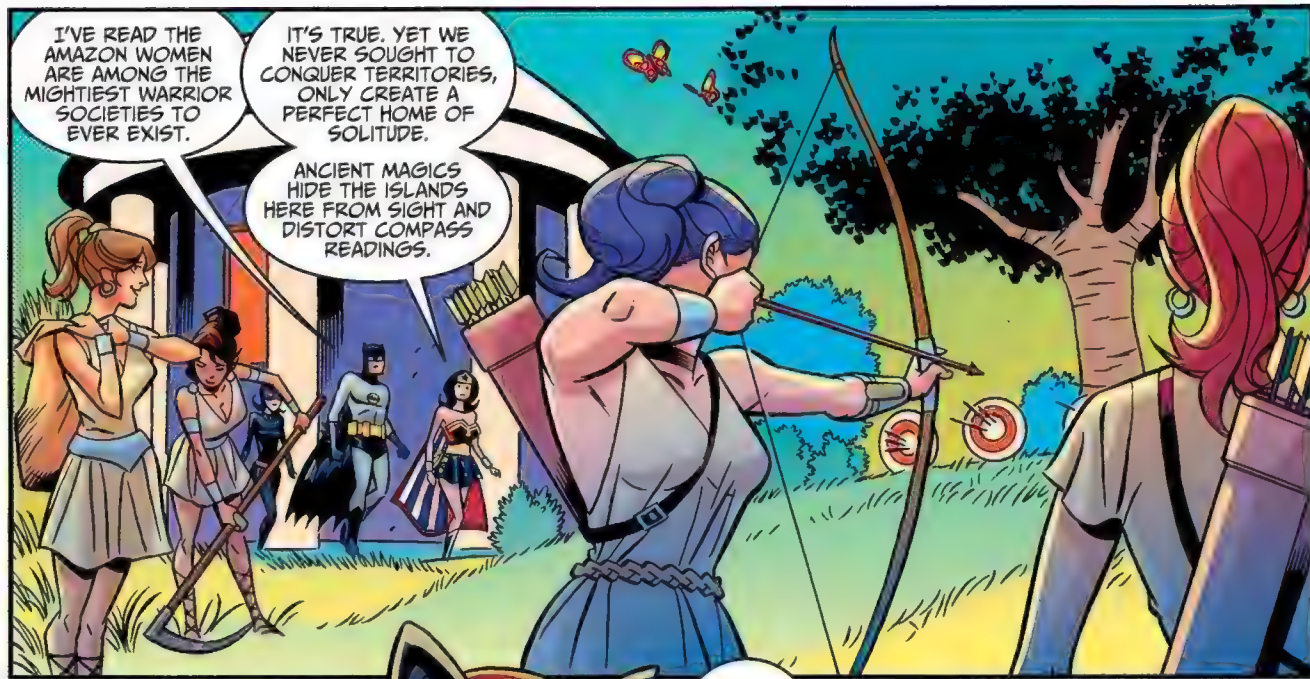
ANY  
FUN CLUBS  
HERE?

OUR  
PEOPLE HAVE  
WORKED HARD  
TO PRESERVE THE  
ISLAND'S HIDDEN  
BEAUTY.

WE  
OFTEN SAY--  
IF THERE IS ONE  
PERFECT PLACE ON  
THE PLANET, THEN  
THERE IS A COMPASS  
POINT TO GIVE THE  
WHOLE WORLD  
DIRECTION.











UNDERSTANDABLE. IT'S MY HOPE THAT HERE IN THE 20TH CENTURY WE ARE FINALLY SHEDDING THAT PENCHANT FOR CONFLICT.

BATMAN'S GREATEST WISH IS FOR WORLD PEACE!



TWENTY YEARS SEEMS MUCH LONGER IN MAN'S WORLD THAN HERE ON PARADISE ISLAND.

COME, YOU MUST BE HUNGRY AFTER THAT LONG FLIGHT.



NOW, YOU  
SPOKE OF AN  
EMERGENCY?

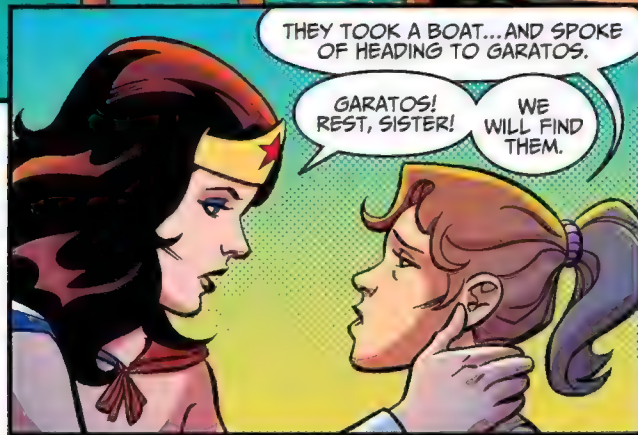
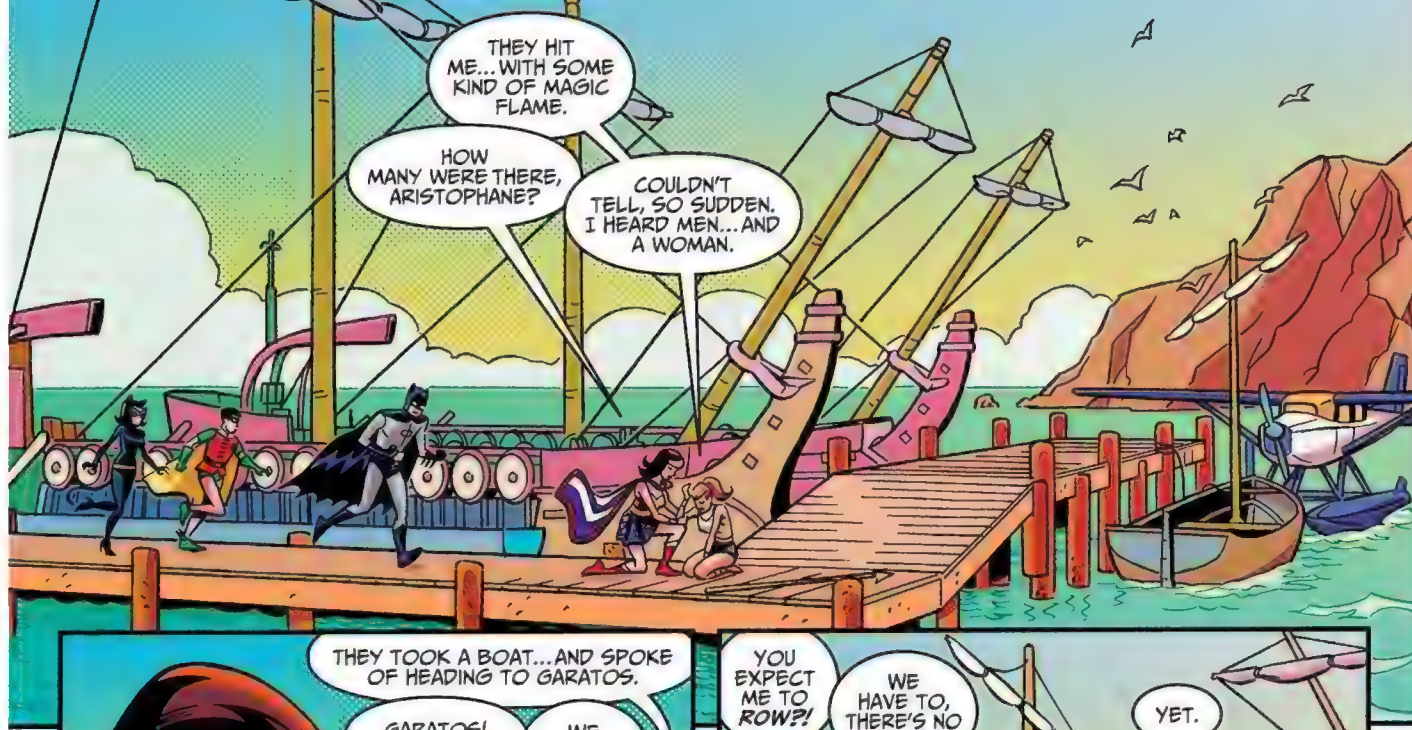
I HAVE  
REASON  
TO BELIEVE  
SOME VERY  
EVIL PEOPLE  
ARE HEADED  
HERE.

THEY  
STOLE TWO  
BOOKS ON THE  
ANCIENT WORLD,  
ONE FOCUSING  
LARGELY  
ON THIS  
ISLAND.













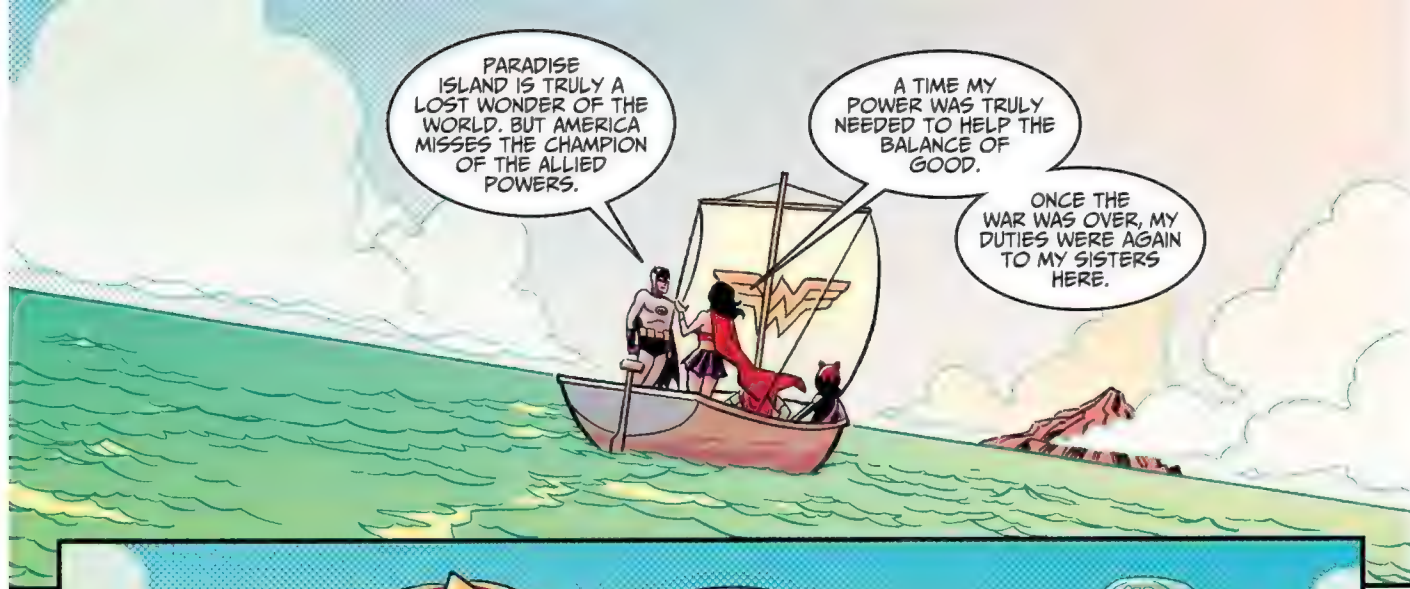
PARADISE  
ISLAND AND ITS  
SEA ANSWER TO  
THE RULING  
FAMILY.

WINDS  
OF ZEPHYRUS,  
FILL OUR  
SAIL!

OUR ISLAND  
IS THE LARGEST  
OF AN ARCHIPELAGO.  
GARATOS IS THE  
THIRD ONE OUT.

THAT'S  
MORE LIKE  
IT.

THE  
POWER OF A  
PRINCESS.













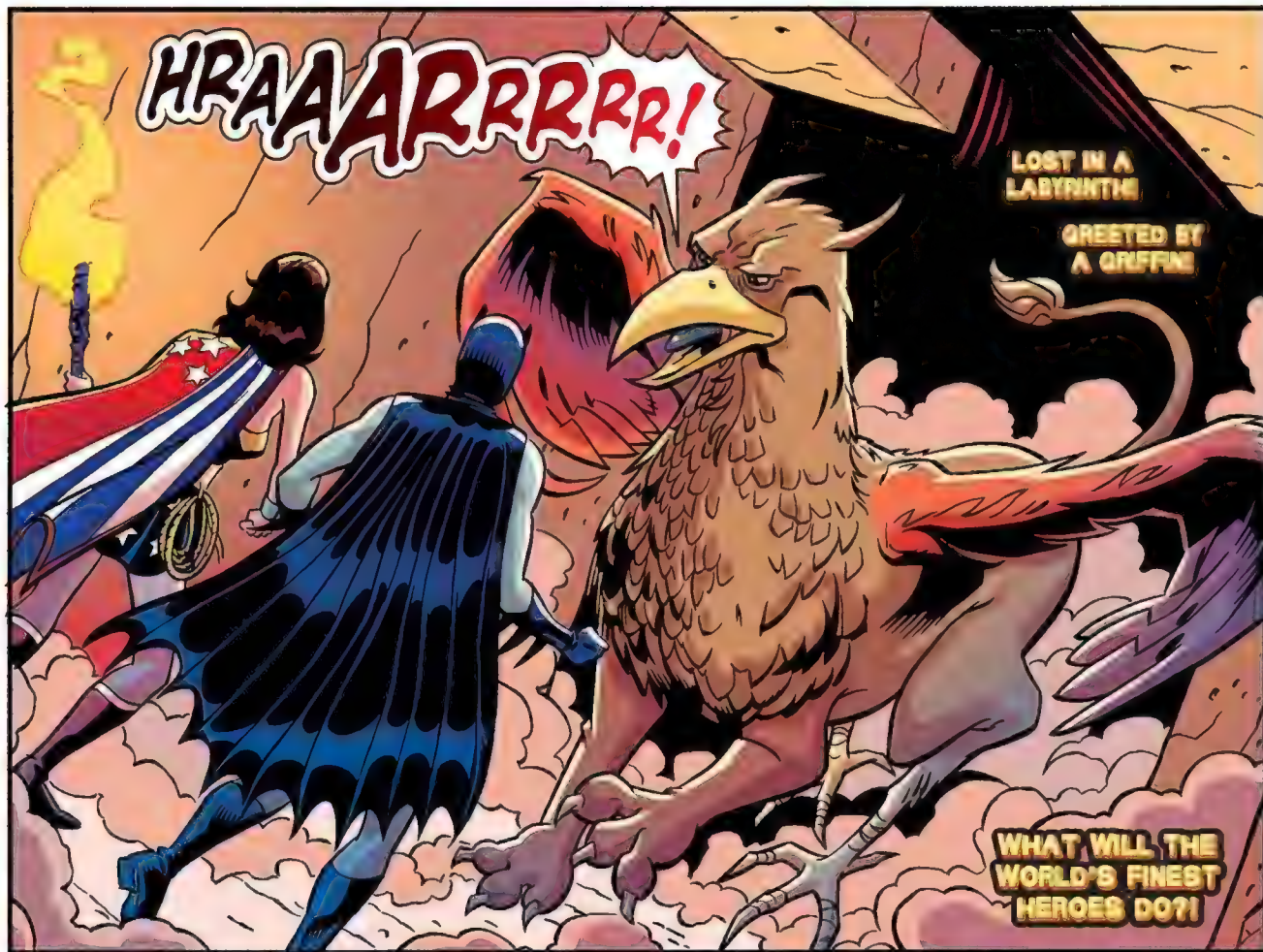














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—Newsarama

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—Nerdist

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*Written by*

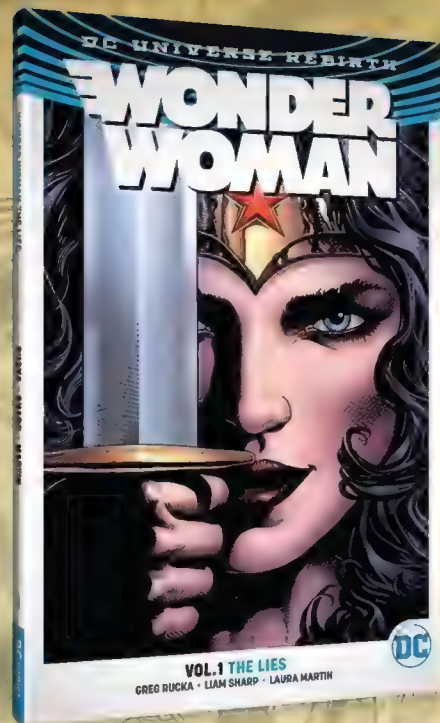
GREG RUCKA

*Art by*

LIAM SHARP

FEBRUARY 2017

THE NEXT EPIC STARTS HERE!







PARKER  
ANDREYKO  
HAHN  
KESEL  
MADPENCIL

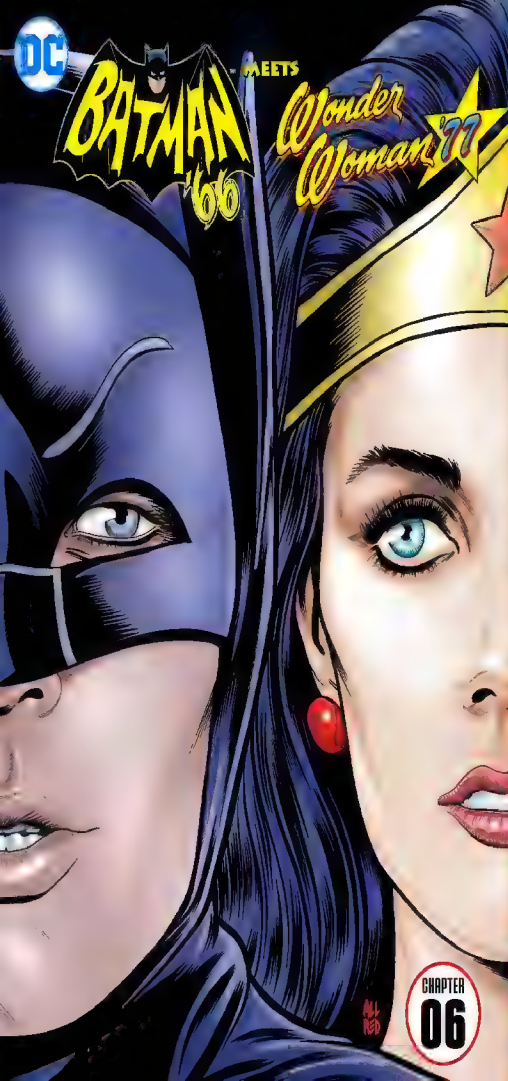
**BATMAN**  
'66

MEETS

*Wonder  
Woman* '77

CHAPTER

**06**



DC  
**BATMAN**  
'66

MEETS

*Wonder Woman*  
'77

CHAPTER  
**06**



**BATMAN**  
'66

MEETS

*Wonder Woman*  
'77

## CHAPTER 6

WRITERS

**JEFF PARKER  
MARC ANDREYKO**

PENCILLER

**DAVID HAHN**

INKER

**KARL KESEL**

COLORIST

**MADPENCIL**

LETTERER

**WES ABBOTT**

COVER

**MICHAEL AND  
LAURA ALLRED**

EDITOR

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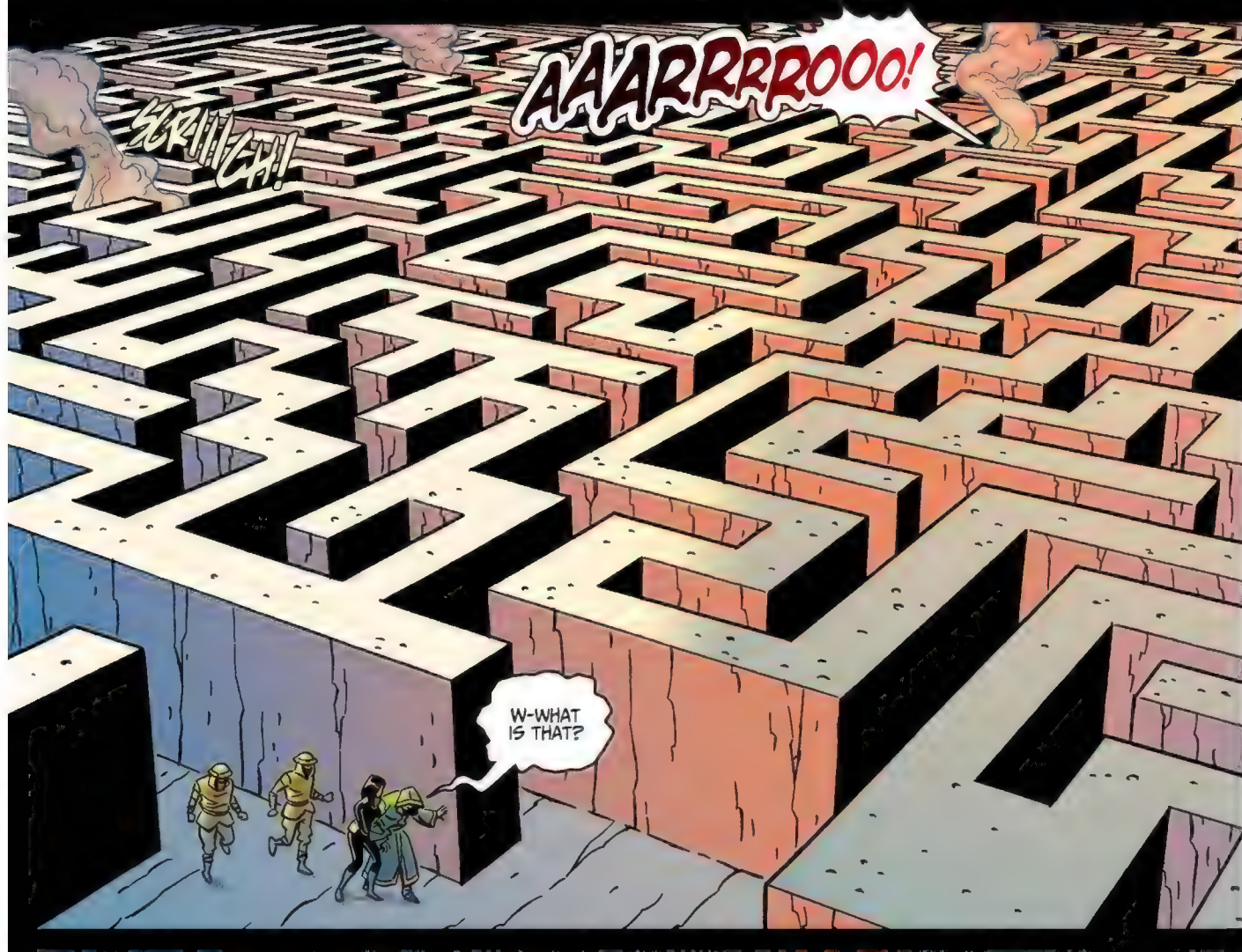
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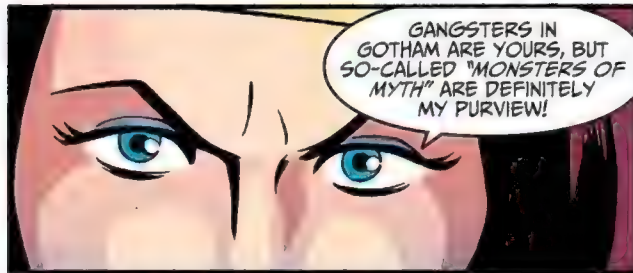




















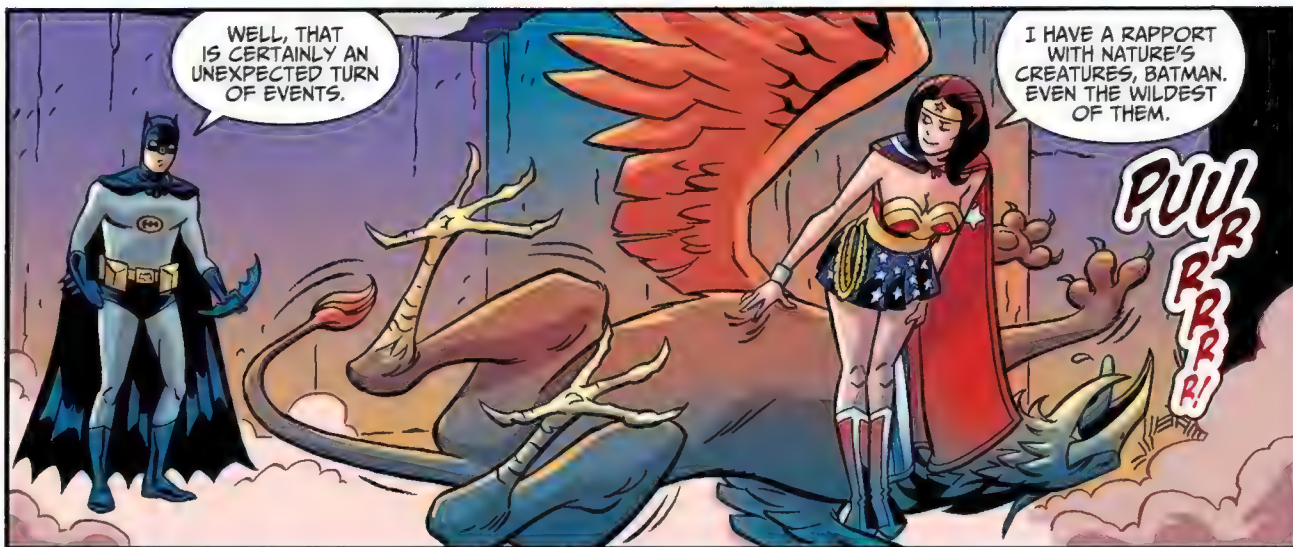
...PURRRRHAPS  
YOU'D SEE WE'RE  
THE ONES IN NEED  
OF HELP!



RRRRRAAWWWRR!

HOLY...  
"EYE" THINK  
WE'RE IN  
TROUBLE  
HERE!







HMM. THEN WHEN  
THIS IS OVER, I MIGHT  
ASK YOU TO TALK TO  
CATWOMAN!



BUT FIRST, WE NEED  
TO RESCUE THE  
AFOREMENTIONED  
FELINE FATALE AND  
MY SIDEKICK,  
ROBIN!













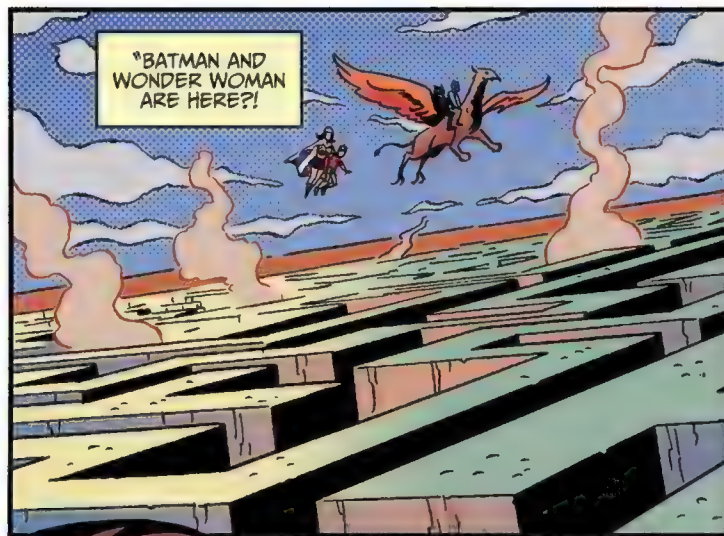






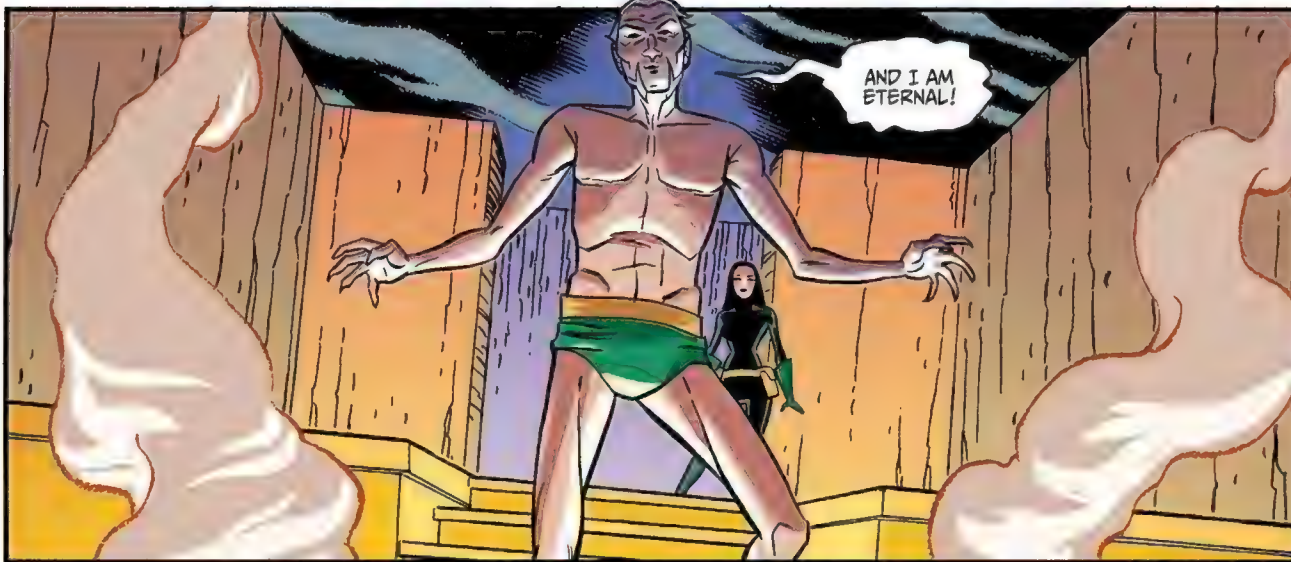




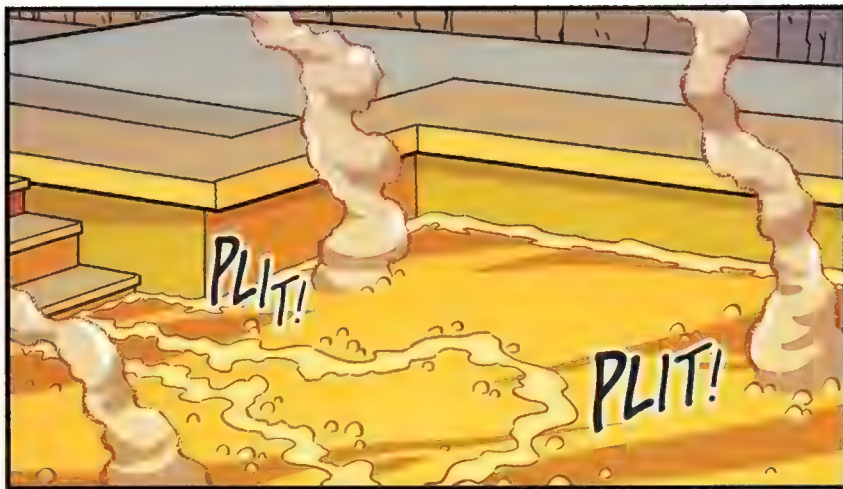


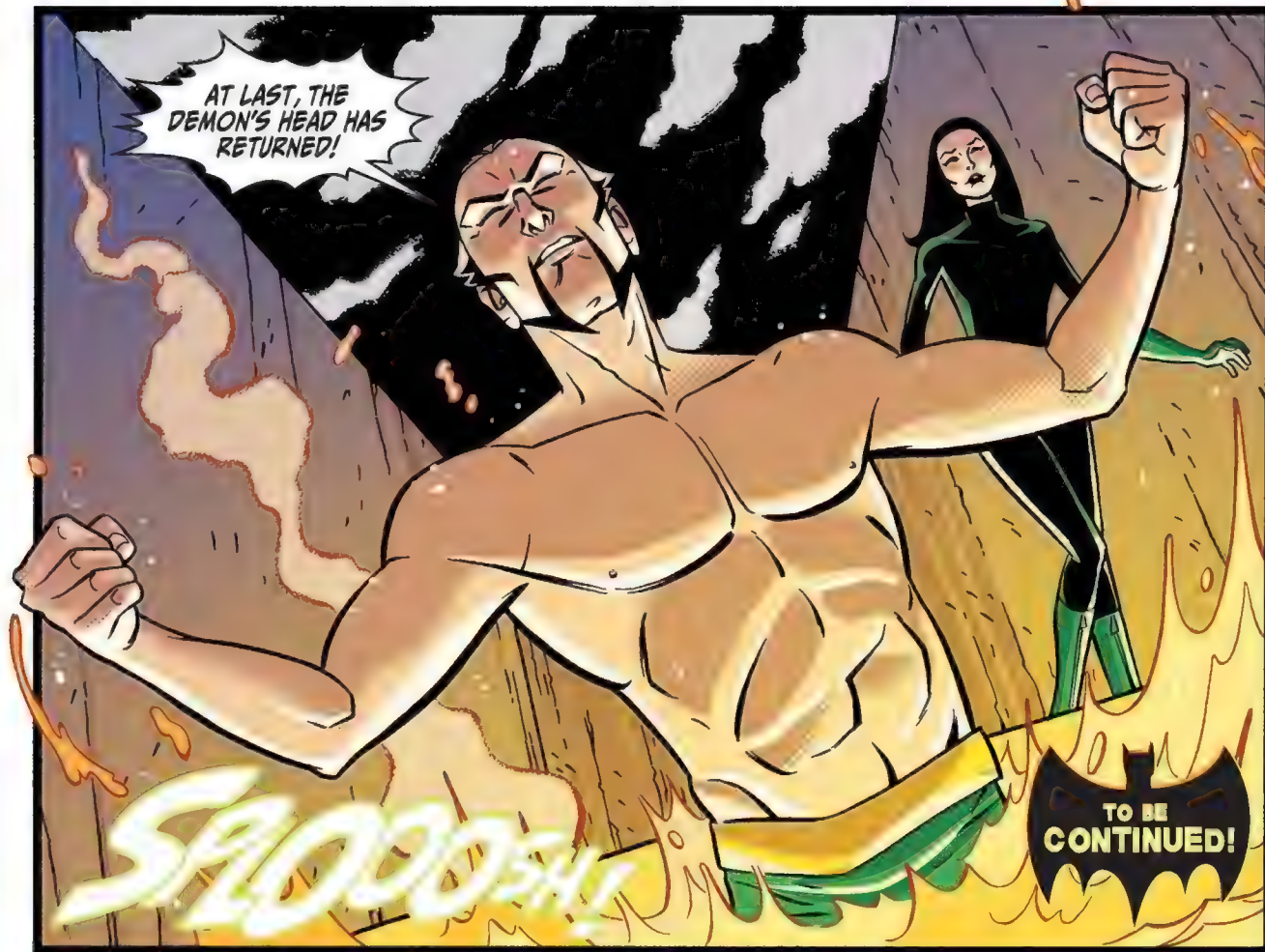
















BATMAN. BLACK CANARY. HILLER FROST.  
THE RAY. VIXEN. THE ATOM. LOBO.  
THE ROUGHEST LEAGUE OF ALL TIME!

THE NEXT EPIC STARTS  
HERE!

# JUSTICE LEAGUE OF AMERICA

WRITTEN BY  
STEVE  
ORLANDO

ART BY  
IVAN REIS

ONLY  
**\$2.99**

TWICE MONTHLY BEGINNING IN  
**FEBRUARY**

DC UNIVERSE  
**REBIRTH**





ANDREYKO  
PARKER  
HAHN  
KESEL  
MADPENCIL

CHAPTER  
**07**







BWHAH!



## CHAPTER 7

WRITERS  
**MARC ANDREYKO**  
**JEFF PARKER**

PENCILLER  
**DAVID HAHN**

INKER  
**KARL KESEL**

COLORIST  
**MADPENCIL**

LETTERER  
**WES ABBOTT**

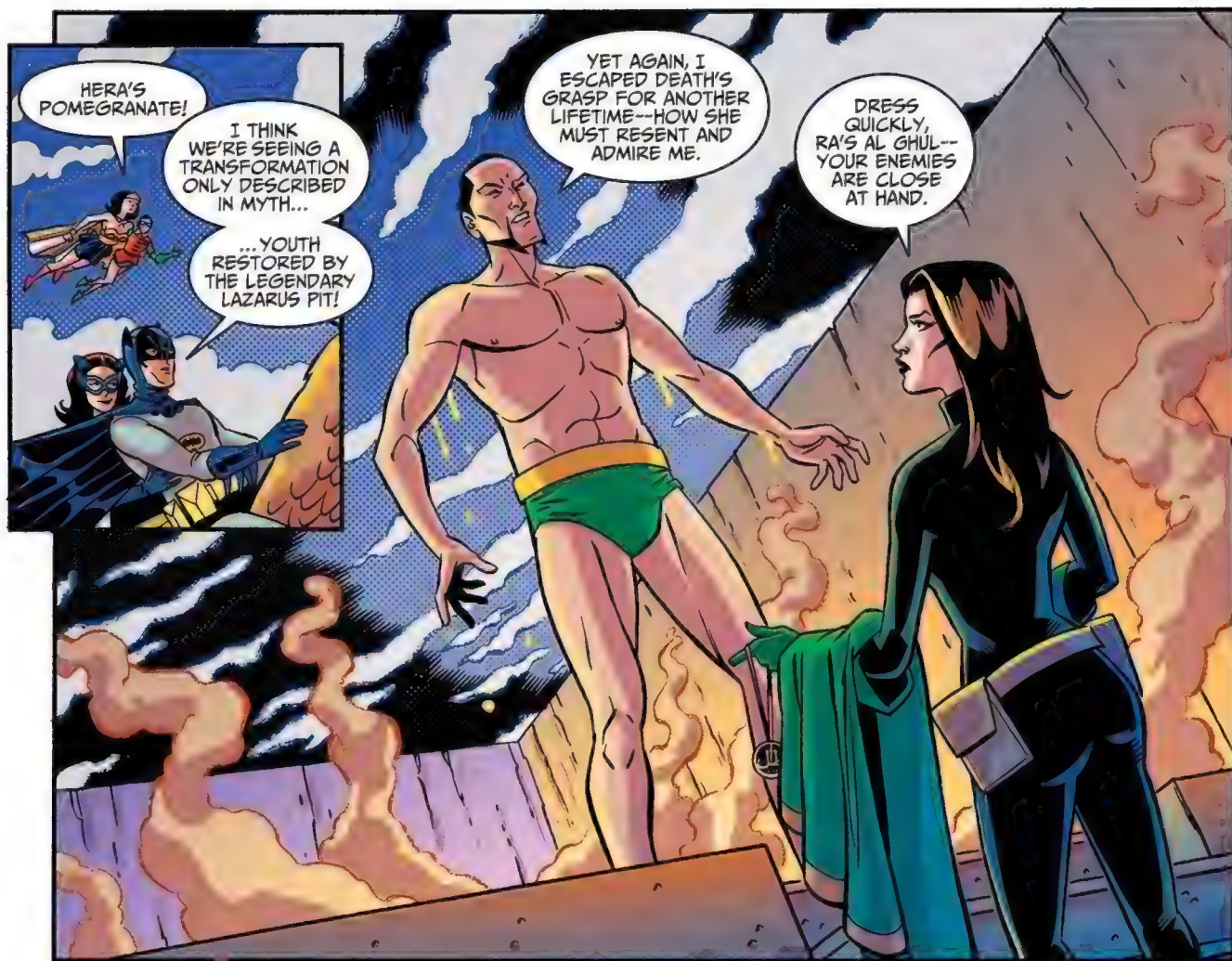
COVER  
**MICHAEL AND**  
**LAURA ALLRED**

EDITOR  
**KRISTY QUINN**

ASSISTANT EDITOR  
**ROB LEVIN**



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HERA'S POMEGRANATE!

I THINK WE'RE SEEING A TRANSFORMATION ONLY DESCRIBED IN MYTH...

...YOUTH RESTORED BY THE LEGENDARY LAZARUS PIT!

YET AGAIN, I ESCAPED DEATH'S GRASP FOR ANOTHER LIFETIME--HOW SHE MUST RESENT AND ADMIRE ME.

DRESS QUICKLY, RA'S AL GHUL--YOUR ENEMIES ARE CLOSE AT HAND.













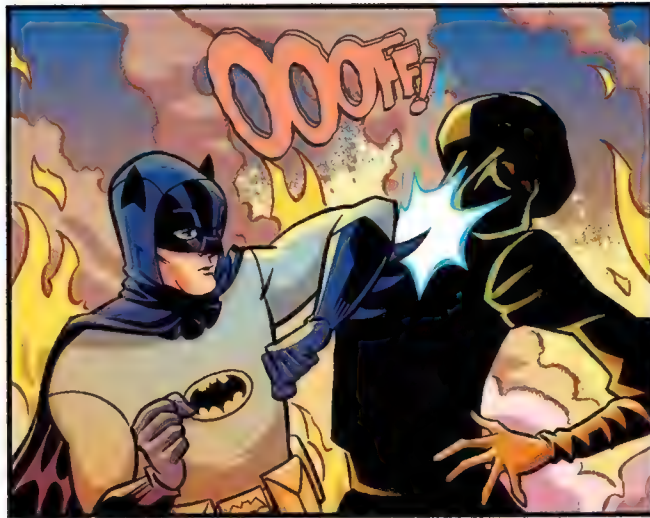












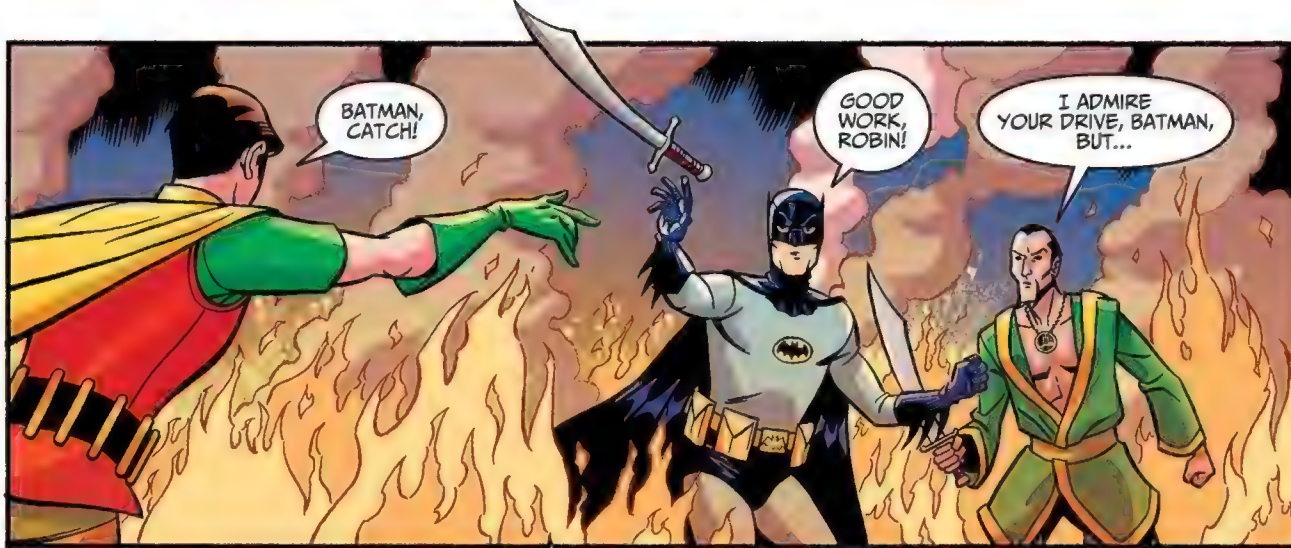










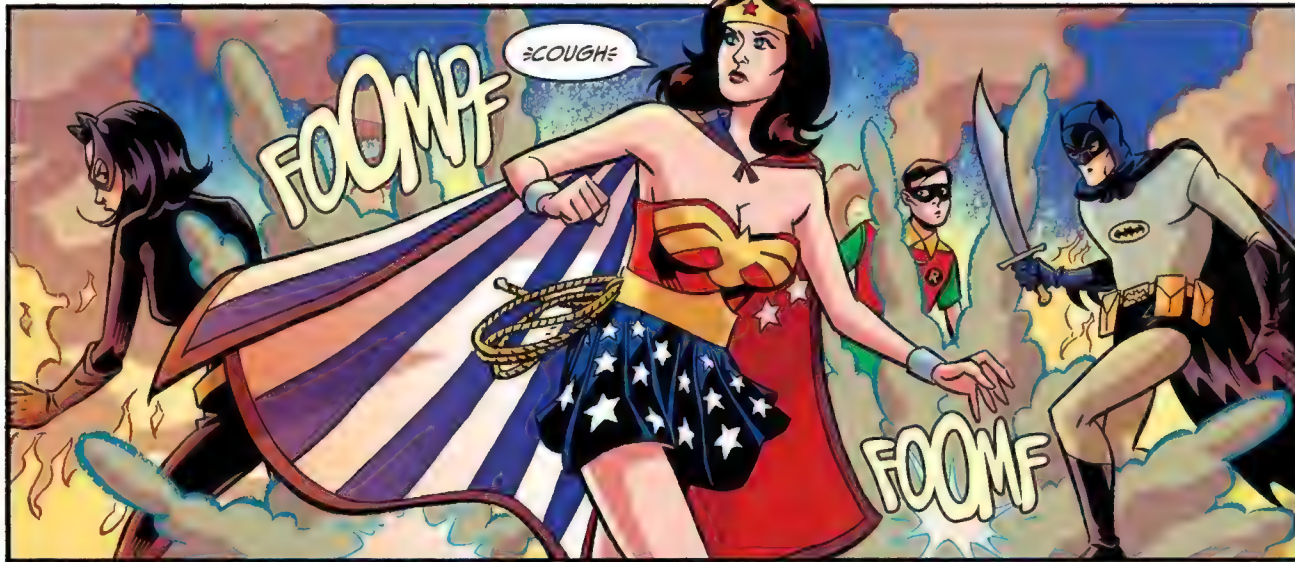














TALIA!  
YOU CHEATED  
ME OF VICTORY--  
YOU KNOW I  
HATE THAT!

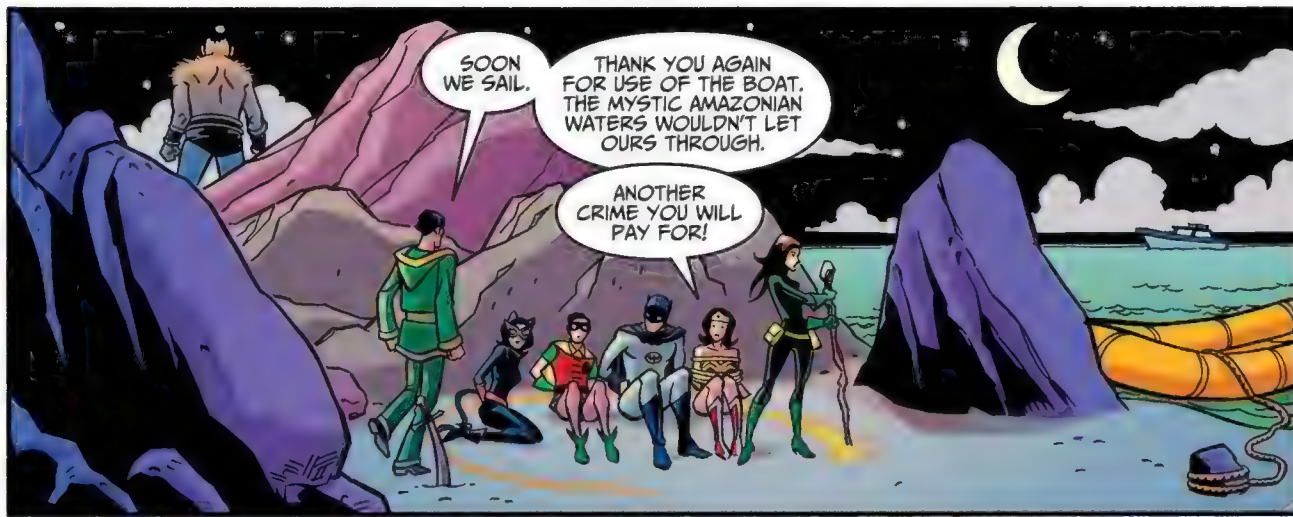
WHY DID  
YOU RELEASE  
THE SLEEPING  
SMOKE?

YOU SAID THAT  
AFTER YOU RENEWED,  
WE WOULD SEARCH OUT NEW,  
POWERFUL WARRIORS TO  
REBUILD THE LEAGUE  
OF SHADOWS.

CAN YOU THINK  
OF ANY BETTER TO  
BEGIN WITH?







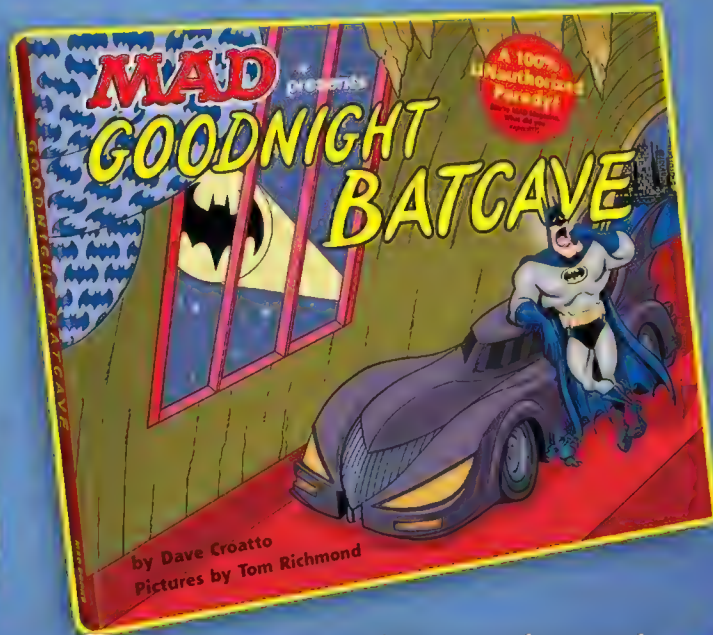




"The perfect joke gift for the Bat-fan that has everything, as well as a fun little tale to read to your younger Bat-Mite as you tuck him or her into bed."

—AIN'T IT COOL NEWS

HARDCOVER  
ON SALE  
**NOW!**



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A 100% unauthorized  
**GOODNIGHT MOON** parody—as only the  
world-(in)famous MAD magazine can do it!







PARKER  
ANDREYKO  
HAHN  
KESEL  
MADPENGIL

CHAPTER  
**08**





MEETS *Wonder Woman* '77

BWHAH!



## CHAPTER 8

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**KARL KESEL**

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LETTERER  
**WES ABBOTT**

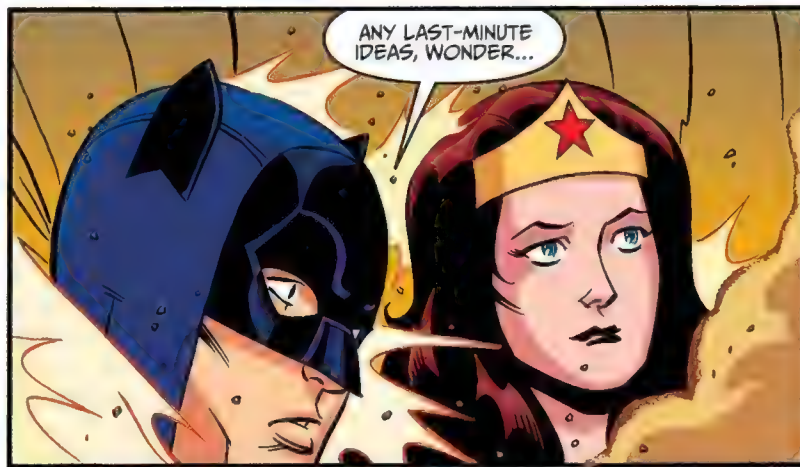
COVER  
**MICHAEL AND  
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**ROB LEVIN**



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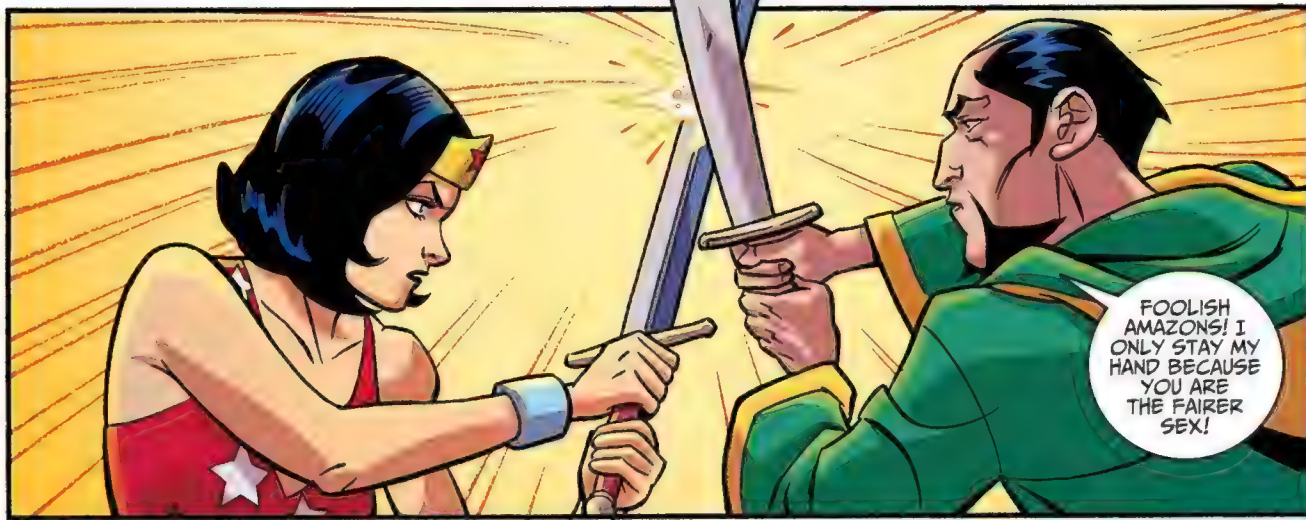






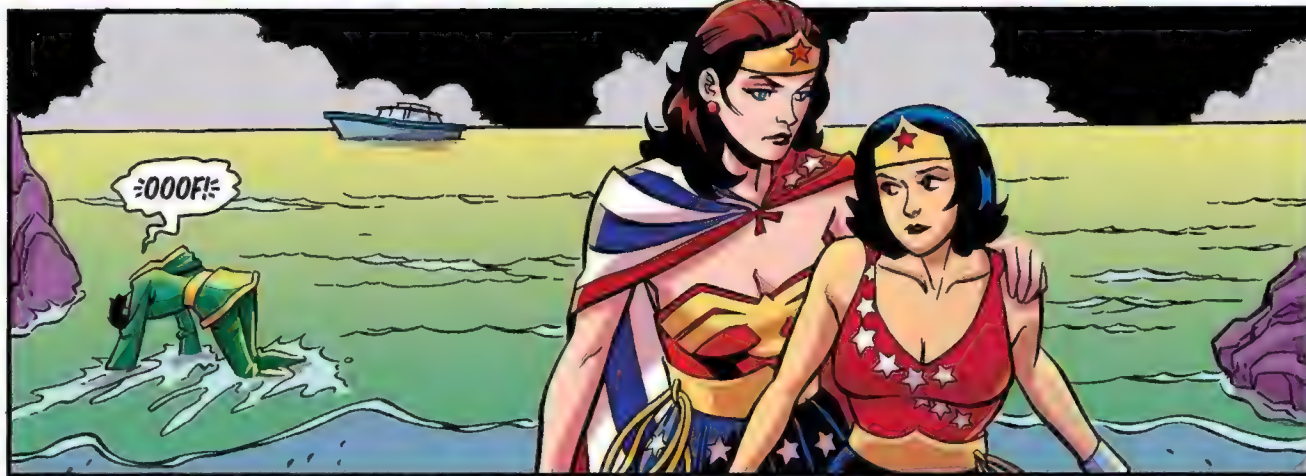
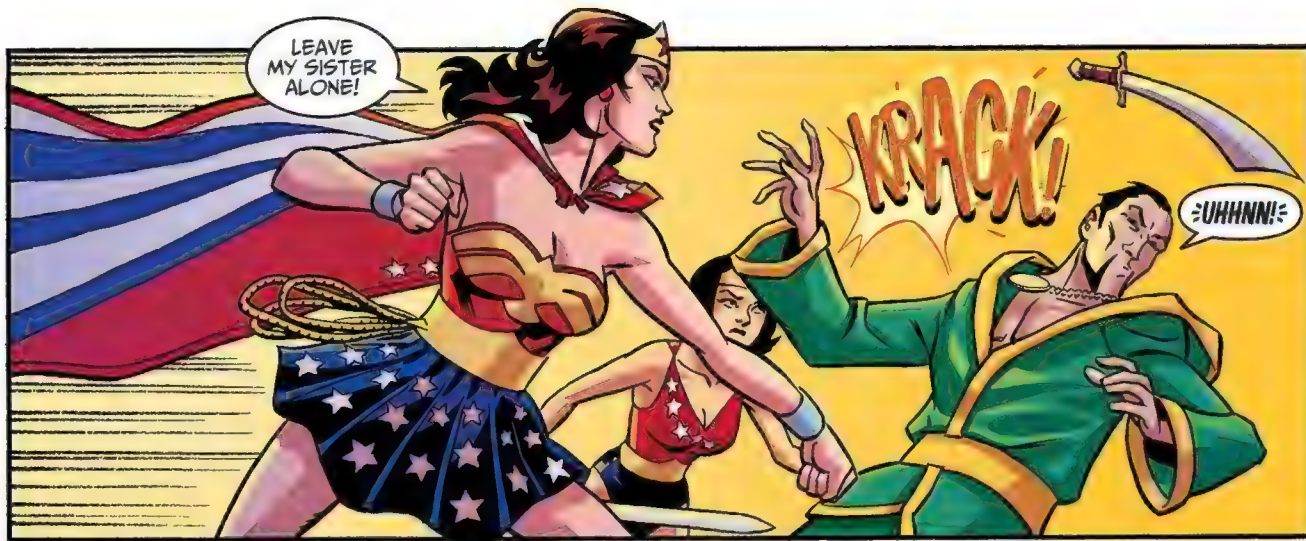






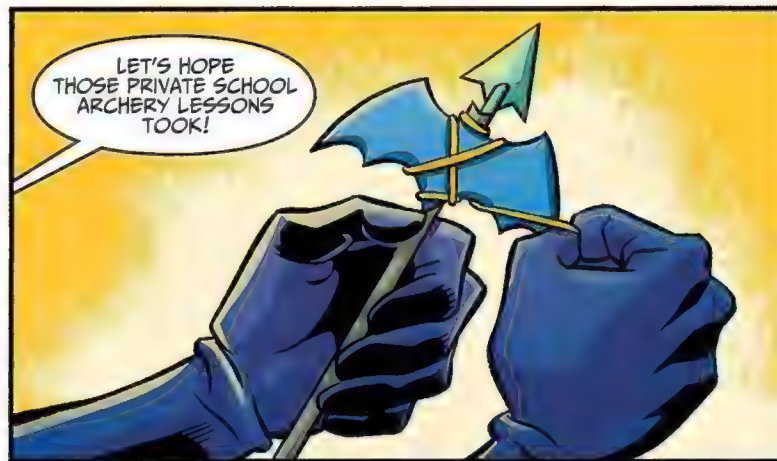


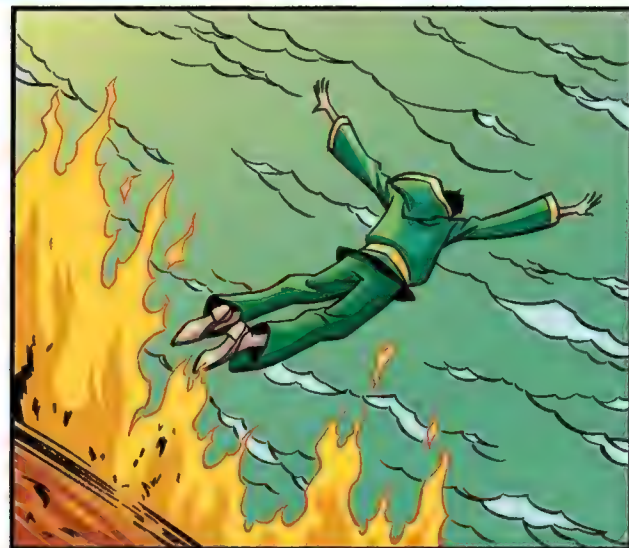
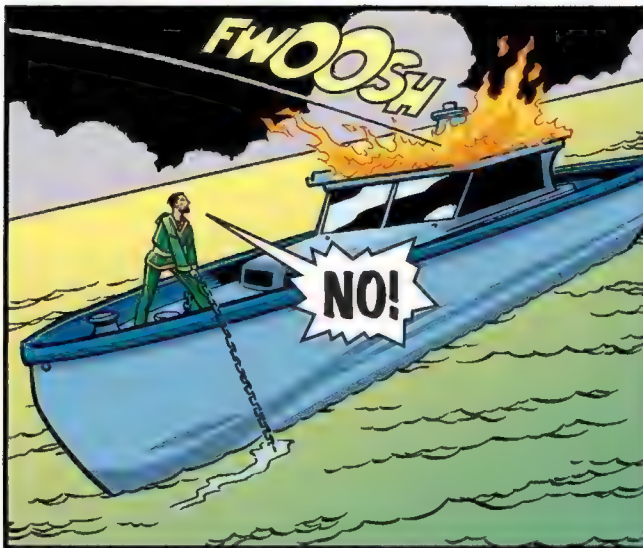




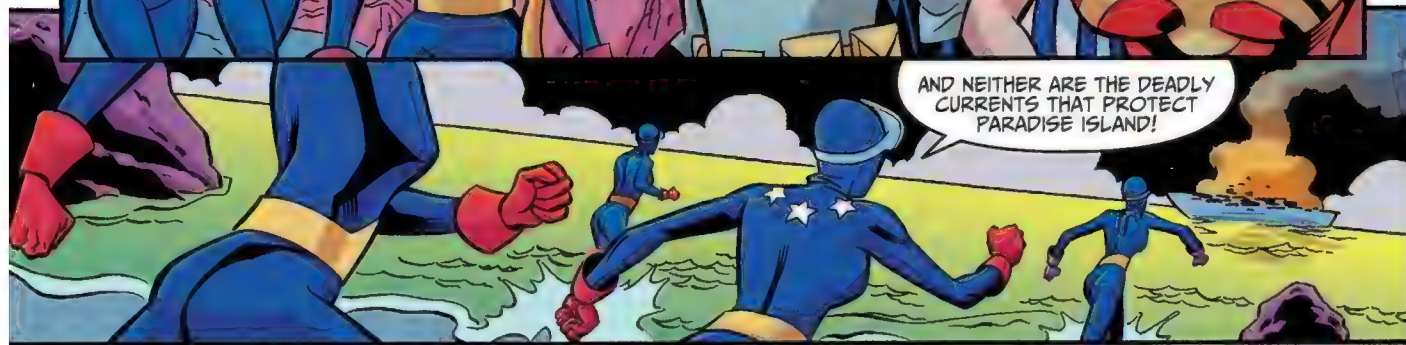






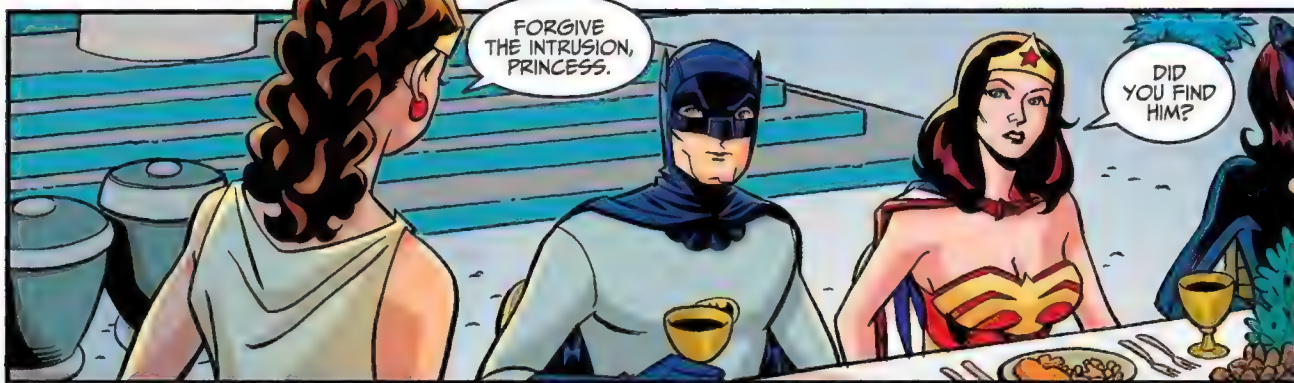
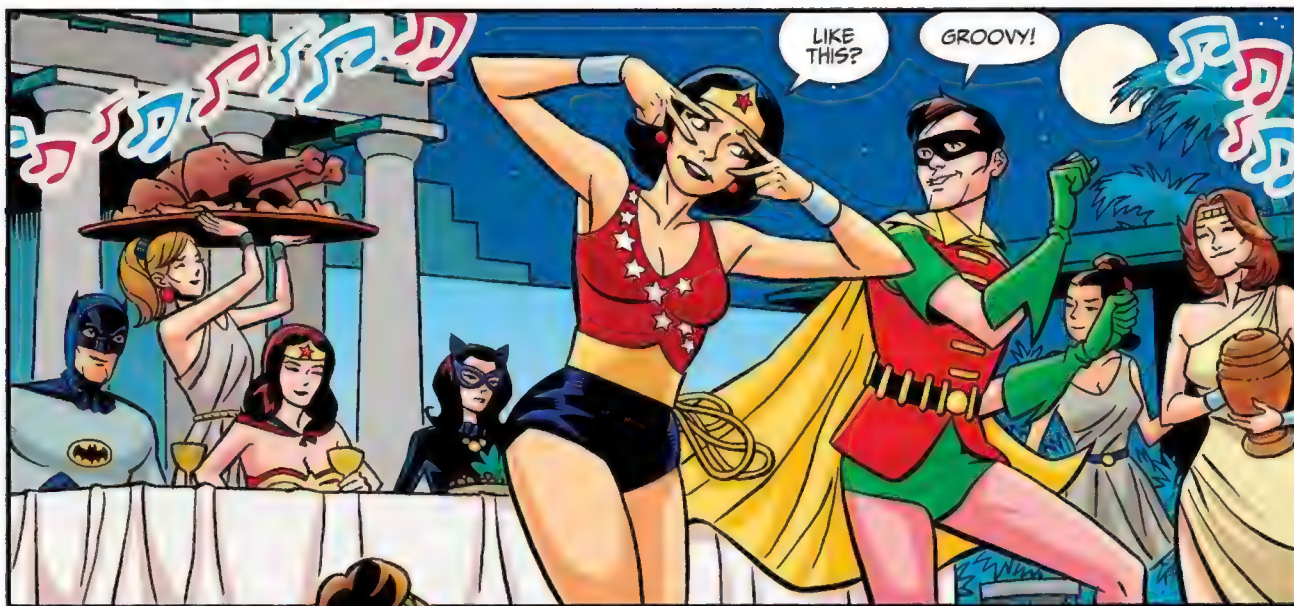














NO. ALL WE FOUND  
WAS THIS. IT IS LIKELY  
RA'S IS WITH HADES IN  
THE UNDERWORLD  
NOW.



I'VE BEEN DOING THIS LONG  
ENOUGH TO KNOW--NO BODY,  
PROBABLY STILL OUT THERE  
PLOTING REVENGE.

ONE OF THE  
DOWNSIDES OF  
SUPER-HEROING  
THESE DAYS.



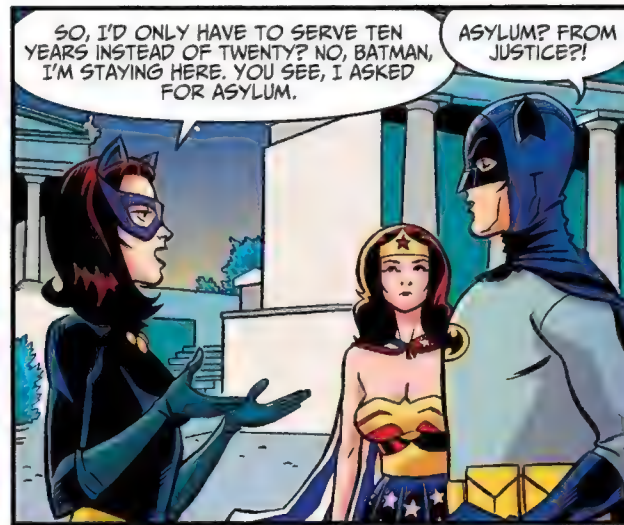
"IT'S JUST A SHAME  
TALIA FOUND GOOD IN  
HER HEART SO LATE.  
BUT JUSTICE MUST  
ALWAYS BE SERVED."





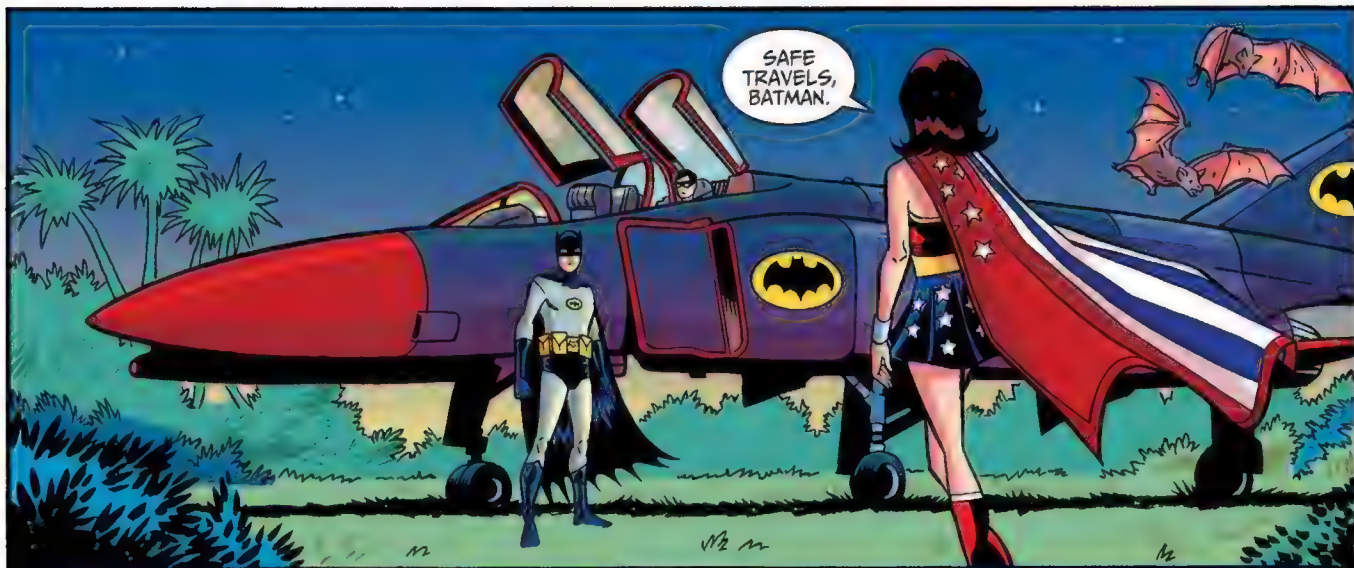














**NOT 22, BATMAN,  
BUT WILL 'I DO?**

**WHERE WILL WE FIND  
THE CAPED CRUSADERS  
IN THE SWINGIN' 'TOS?**

**WILL RA'S RISE AGAIN?  
WILL TALIA TELL 'ALL?**

**AND MORE IMPORTANTLY,  
WILL CATWOMAN BE  
DOMESTICATED?**



**ALL THIS AND  
MORE WILL BE  
ANSWERED IN OUR  
NEXT EXCITING  
INSTALLMENTS!**



DC UNIVERSE REBIRTH

THERE'S A NEW TEEN TITAN IN TOWN...AND HE'S MAKING A SPLASH!



# TEEN TITANS

#6

*The  
Rise of  
Aqualad*

PART ONE



WRITTEN BY **BENJAMIN PERCY** ART BY **KHOI PHAM**

MONTHLY  
BEGINNING IN

**MARCH**







MEETS

Wonder Woman '77

BWHAH!



KWHACK!

## CHAPTER 9

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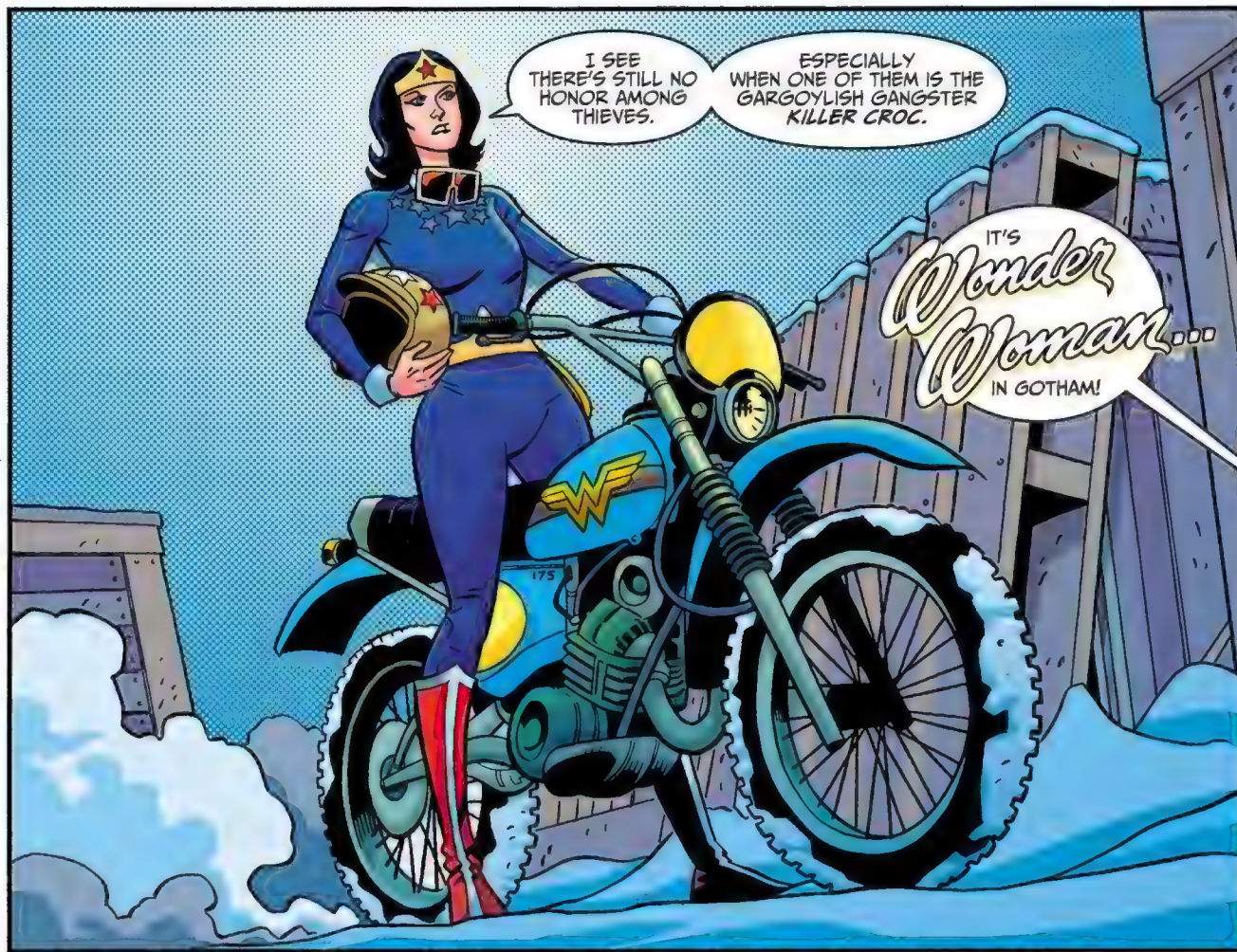
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WONDER WOMAN CREATED BY WILLIAM MOULTON MARSTON.



**OUTSKIRTS OF GOTHAM CITY, 1977.**







I SEE  
THERE'S STILL NO  
HONOR AMONG  
THIEVES.

ESPECIALLY  
WHEN ONE OF THEM IS THE  
GARGOYLISH GANGSTER  
KILLER CROC.

IT'S  
*Wonder  
Woman...*  
IN GOTHAM!









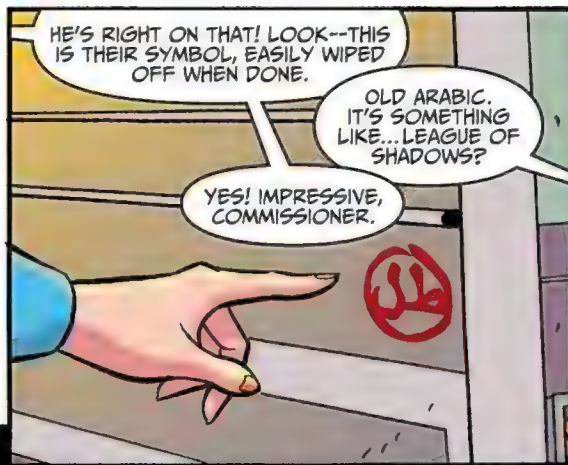




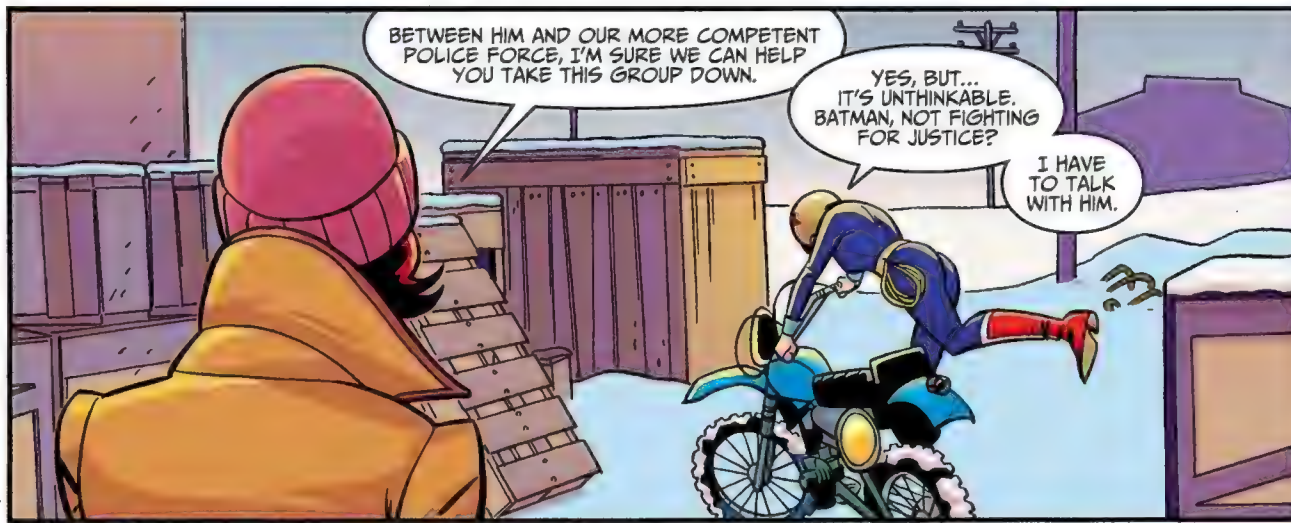












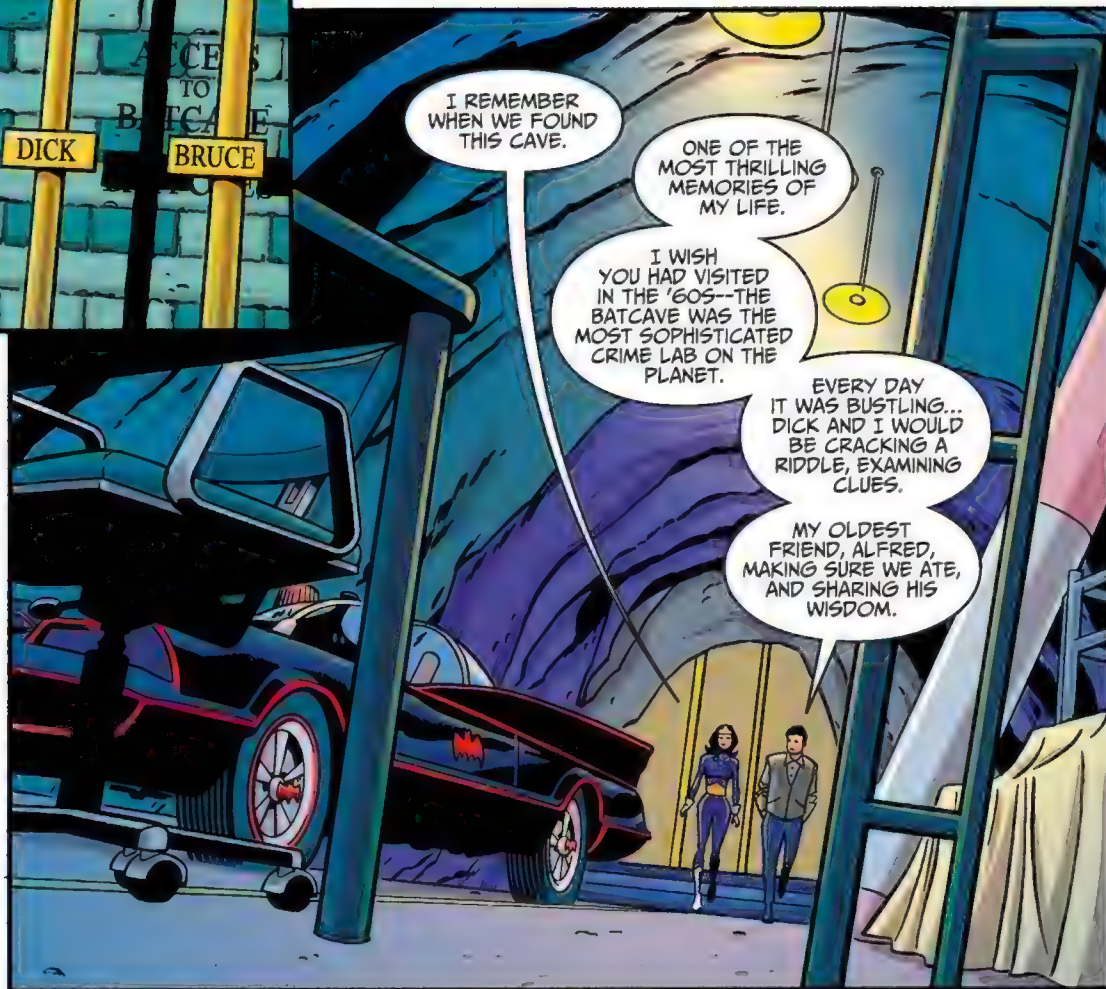


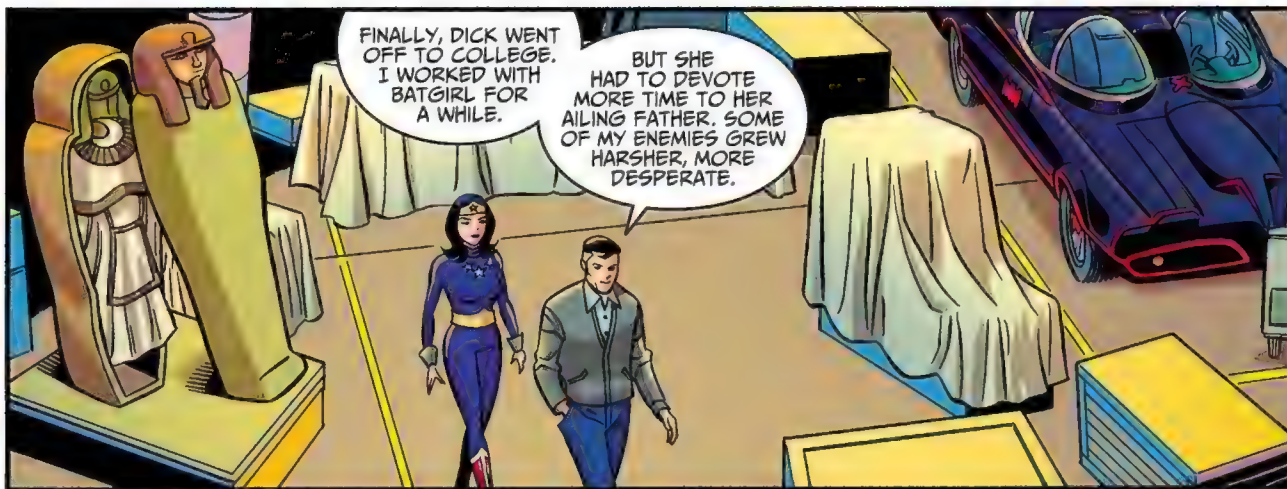




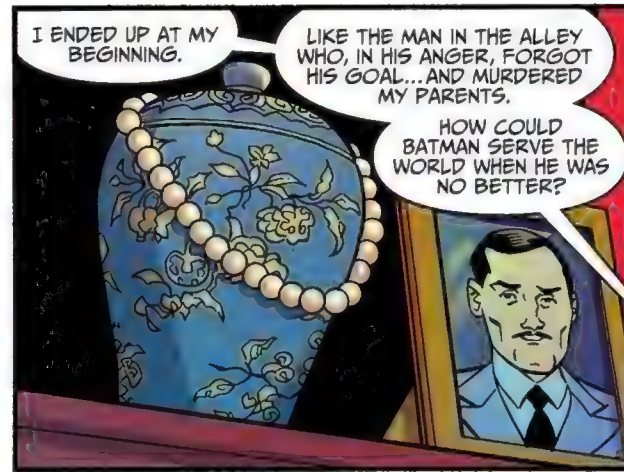


















**SNAKE CREEK  
CANYON.**



COPPERHEAD...  
**STOP!**

LOOK  
WHO'S ALMOST  
IN TIME? SORRY,  
NIGHTWING!

BUT THE  
CAT-LADY RATTED  
ME OUT--IF SHE'S  
GOING TO PLAY HERO,  
SHE GETS WHAT  
YOU DO.



**FSST!**

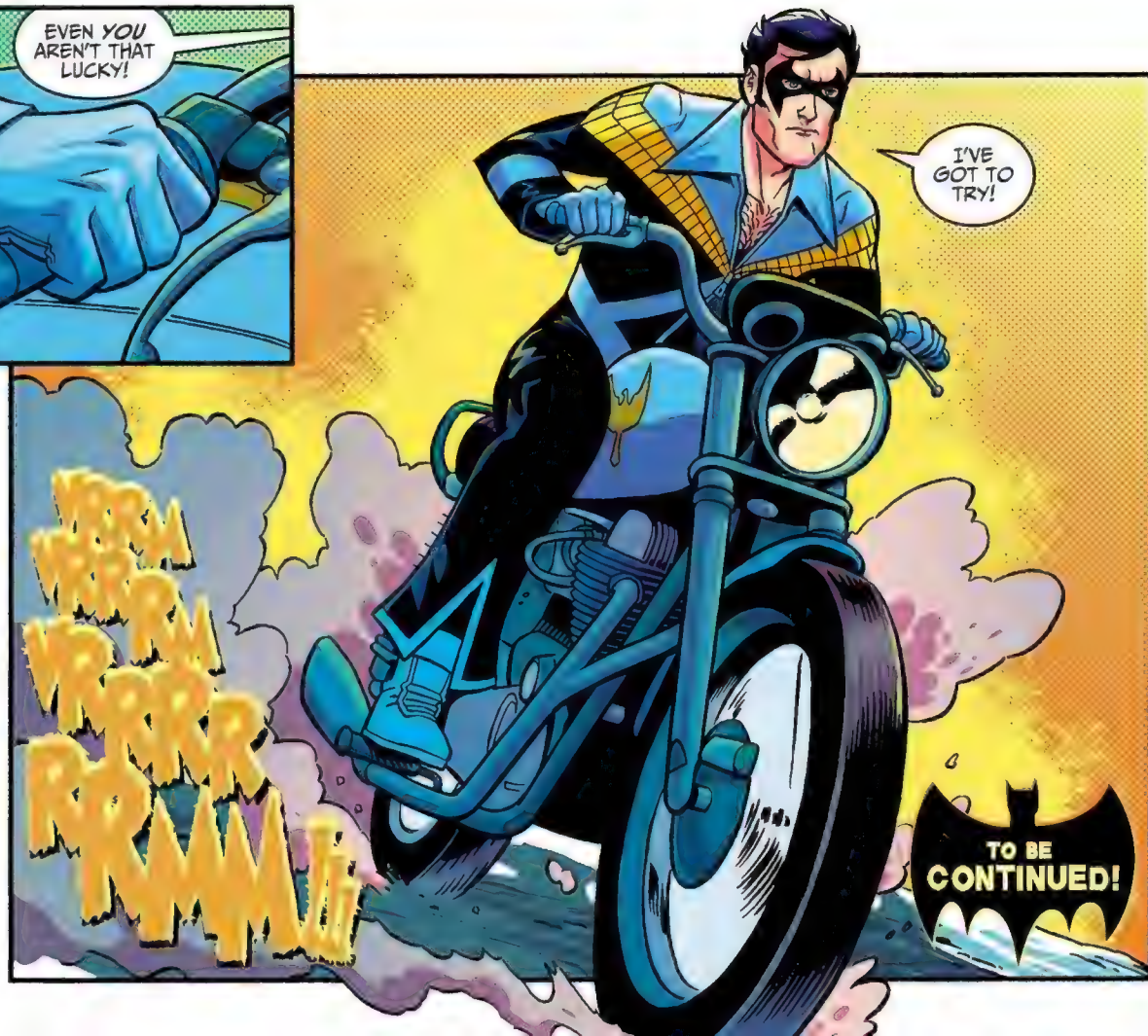


TOO BAD  
YOU DROVE UP  
ON THE WRONG  
SIDE OF THE  
CANYON!

JUST  
CLOSE ENOUGH TO  
WATCH HER DIE, BUT  
NOT CLOSE ENOUGH  
TO MAKE THE  
JUMP.









# THE TEAM-UPS YOU NEVER THOUGHT YOU'D SEE!

**ADAM STRANGE/  
FUTURE QUEST SPECIAL #1**  
Written by **Marc Andreyko**  
and **Jeff Parker**  
Art by **Steve Lieber**  
*Bonus Story*  
**TOP CAT** by **Dan DiDio** and **Phil Winslade**



**BOOSTER GOLD/  
THE FLINTSTONES SPECIAL #1**  
Written by **Mark Russell**  
Art by **Rick Leonardi** and **Scott Hanna**  
*Bonus Story*  
**THE JETSONS** by **Jimmy Palmiotti**,  
**Amanda Conner** and **Pier Brito**

**GREEN LANTERN/  
SPACE GHOST SPECIAL #1**  
Written by **James Tynion IV**  
and **Christopher Sebela**  
Art by **Ariel Olivetti**  
*Bonus Story*  
**RUFF 'N' REDDY** by **Howard Chaykin**



**SUICIDE SQUAD/  
BANANA SPLITS SPECIAL #1**  
Written by **Tony Bedard**  
Art by **Ben Caldwell**  
*Bonus Story*  
**SNAGGLEPUSS** by **Mark Russell**  
and **Howard Porter**



# Hanna-Barbera

MARCH 2017





PARKER  
ANDREYKO  
HAHN  
KESSEL  
MADPENCIL

CHAPTER  
**10**





MEETS *Wonder Woman* '77

BWHAH!



## CHAPTER 10

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**DAVID HAHN**

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**KARL KESEL**

COLORIST  
**MADPENCIL**

LETTERER  
**WES ABBOTT**

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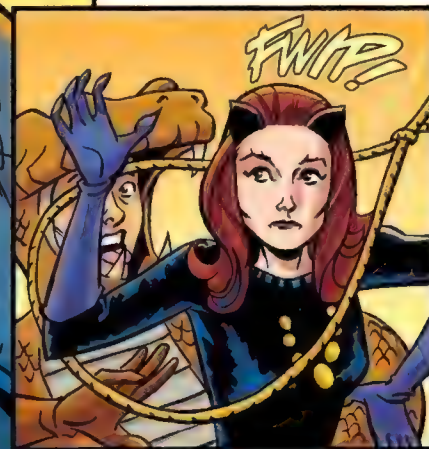
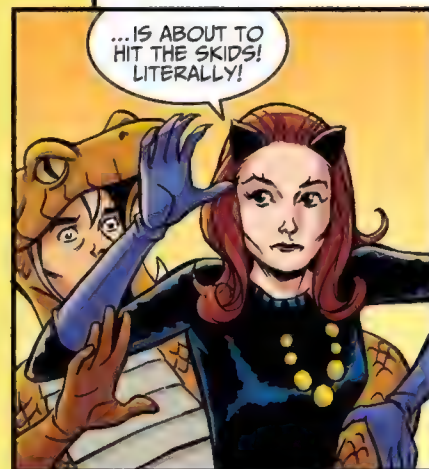
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**KRISTY QUINN**

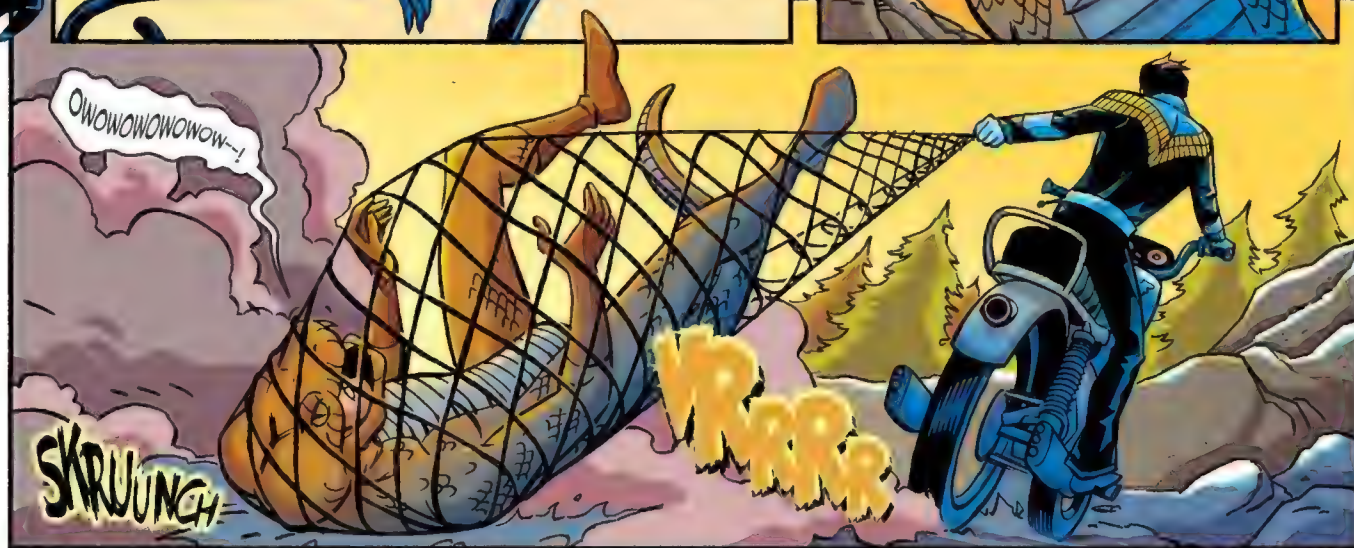
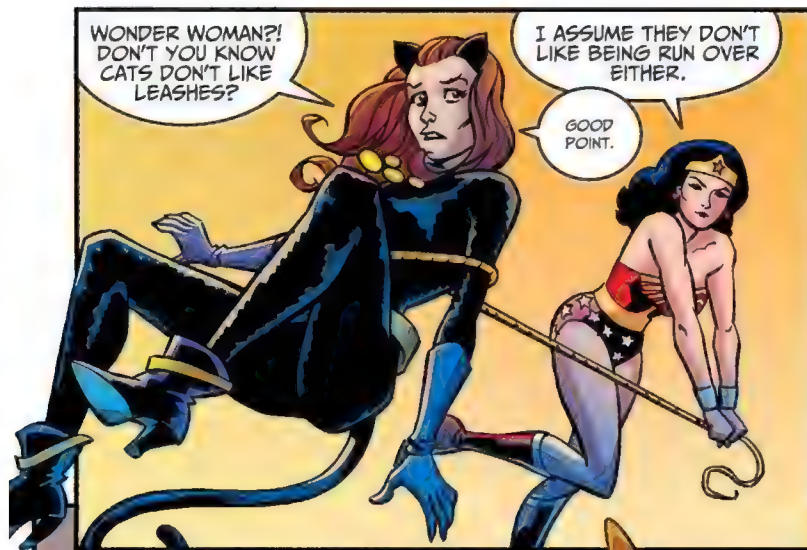
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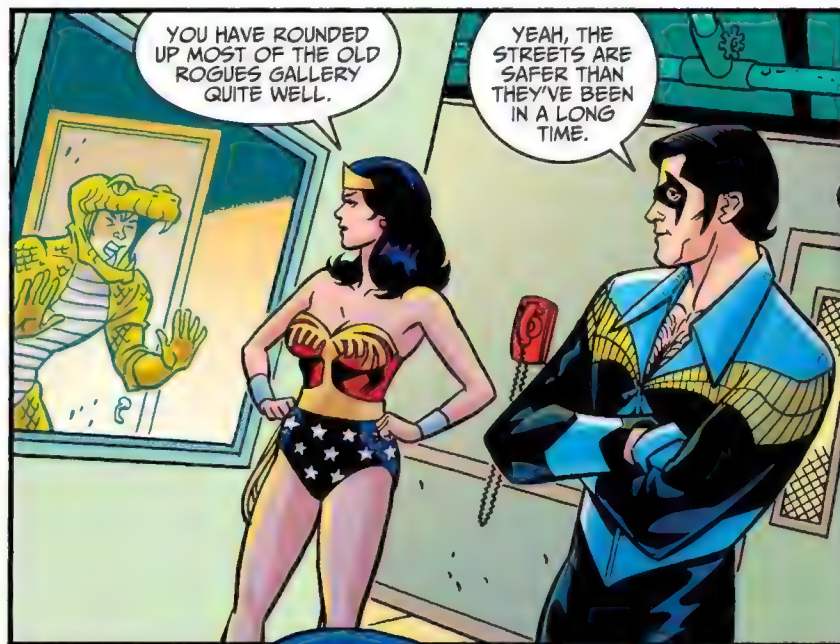


















I'LL  
BE RIGHT  
BACK.

SOMETHING  
SURE HAS SELINA  
SPOOKED.

RA'S IS QUITE  
THE INTIMIDATING  
FOE. I UNDERSTAND  
HER UNEASE.



HAVE YOU HEARD  
FROM TALIA?

THE LAST TIME I  
SAW HER WAS IN A CELL ON  
PARADISE ISLAND ELEVEN  
YEARS AGO.

HM. THERE IS SOMETHING  
SHE AND HER FATHER WANT  
HERE IN GOTHAM. THE  
QUESTION IS--WHAT?



I BELIEVE  
*THIS* IS THE  
ANSWER.

WHEN TALIA HIRED ME TO STEAL  
FINLAY'S BOOK, I NATURALLY  
*PURR*-USED IT AND FOUND THESE  
TREASURE MAPS.

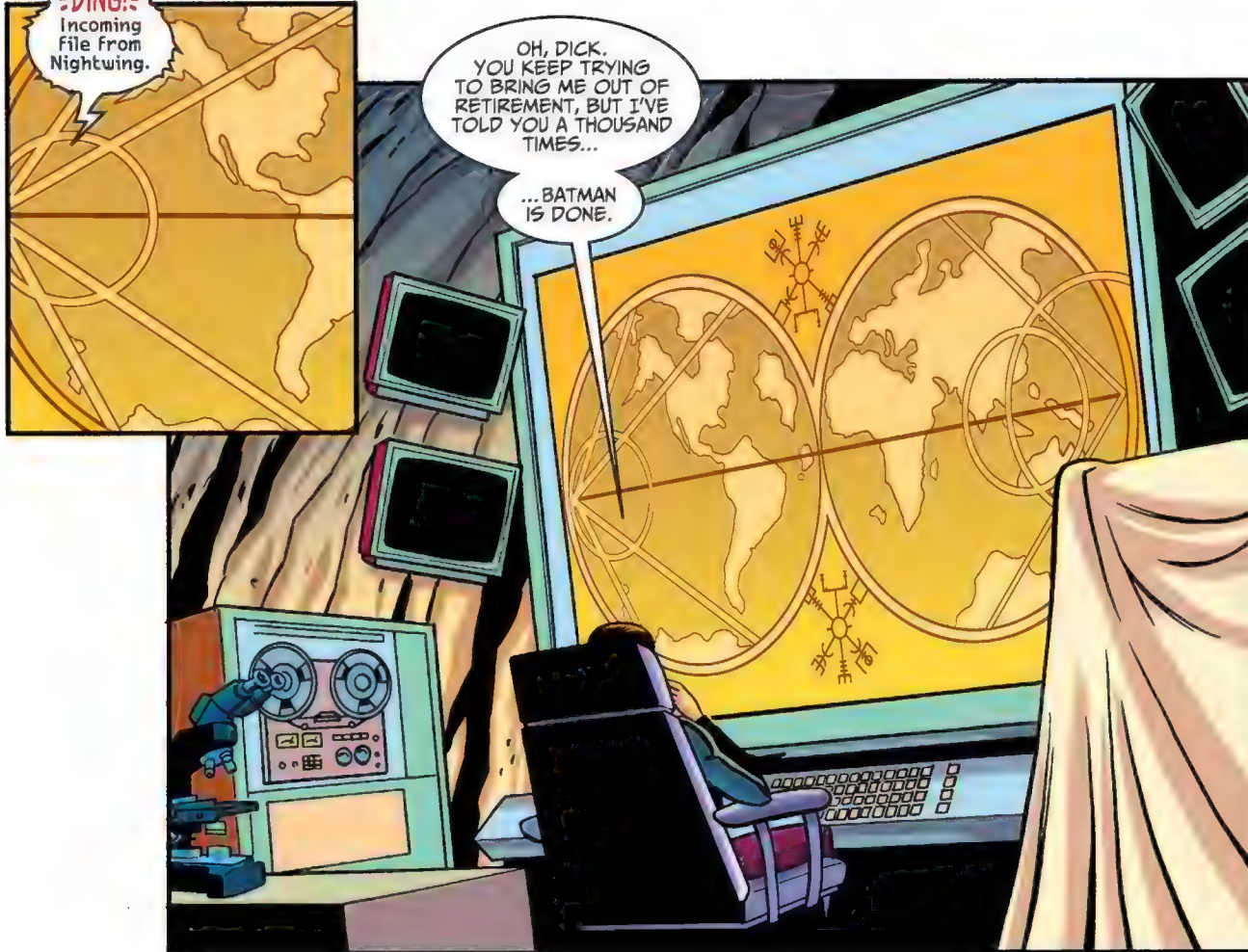
AND, WELL,  
WHAT SORT OF GIRL  
COULD RESIST THAT? AFTER  
I LEFT PARADISE ISLAND,  
I STOLE THEM AGAIN...AND  
I'VE BEEN SAVING THEM  
FOR A RAINY DAY.



**DING!**  
Incoming  
File from  
Nightwing.

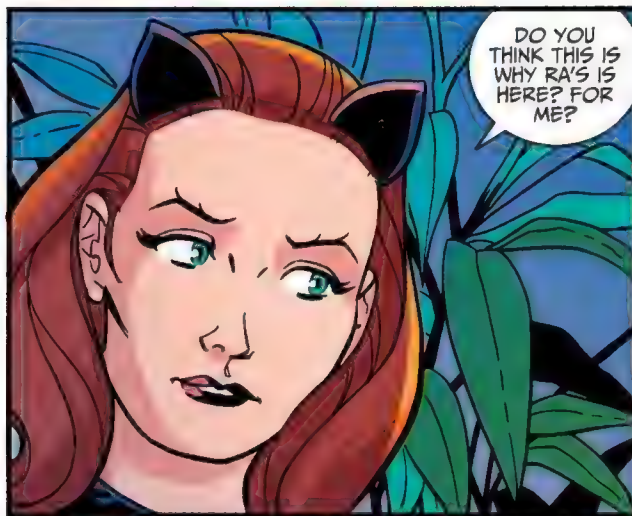
OH, DICK.  
YOU KEEP TRYING  
TO BRING ME OUT OF  
RETIREMENT, BUT I'VE  
TOLD YOU A THOUSAND  
TIMES...

... BATMAN  
IS DONE.















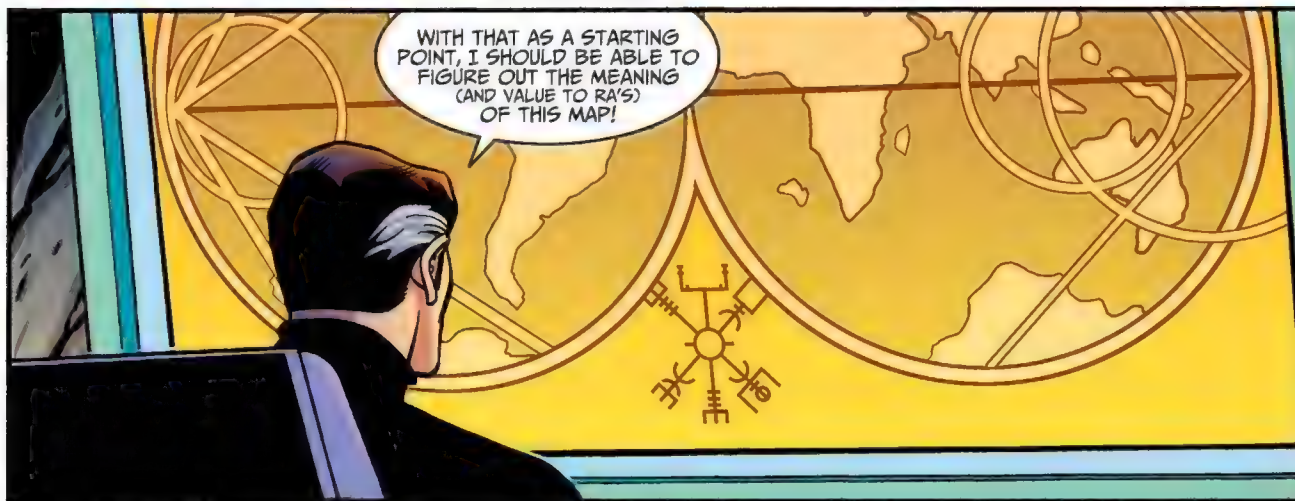


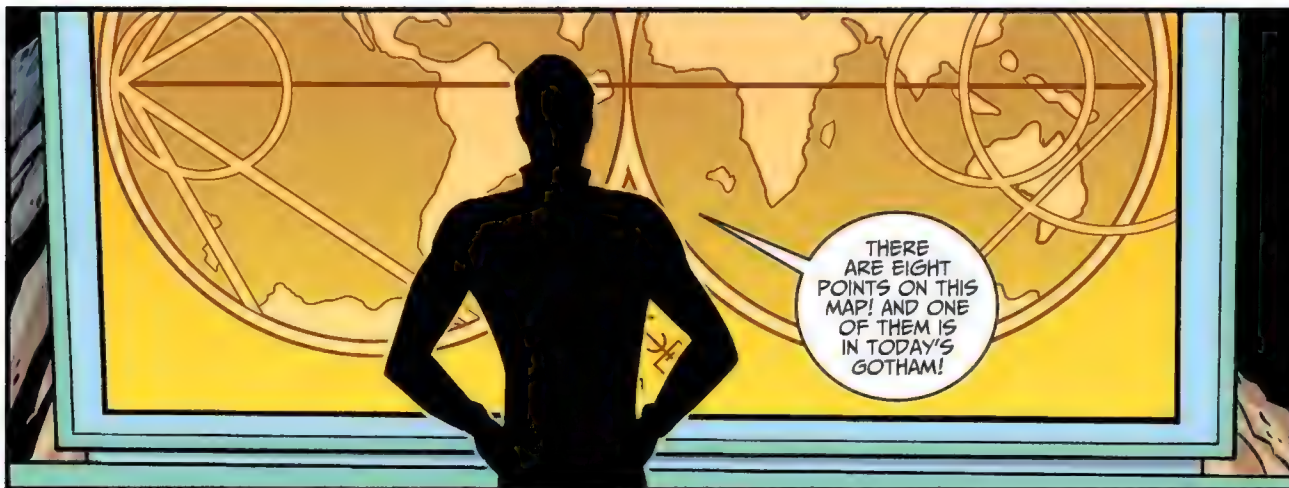




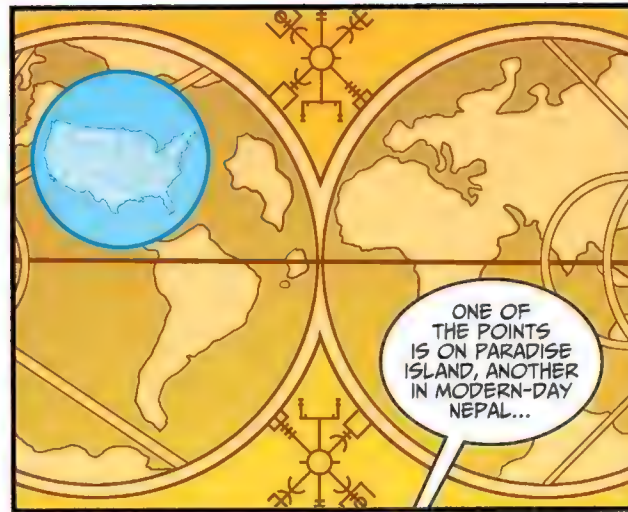






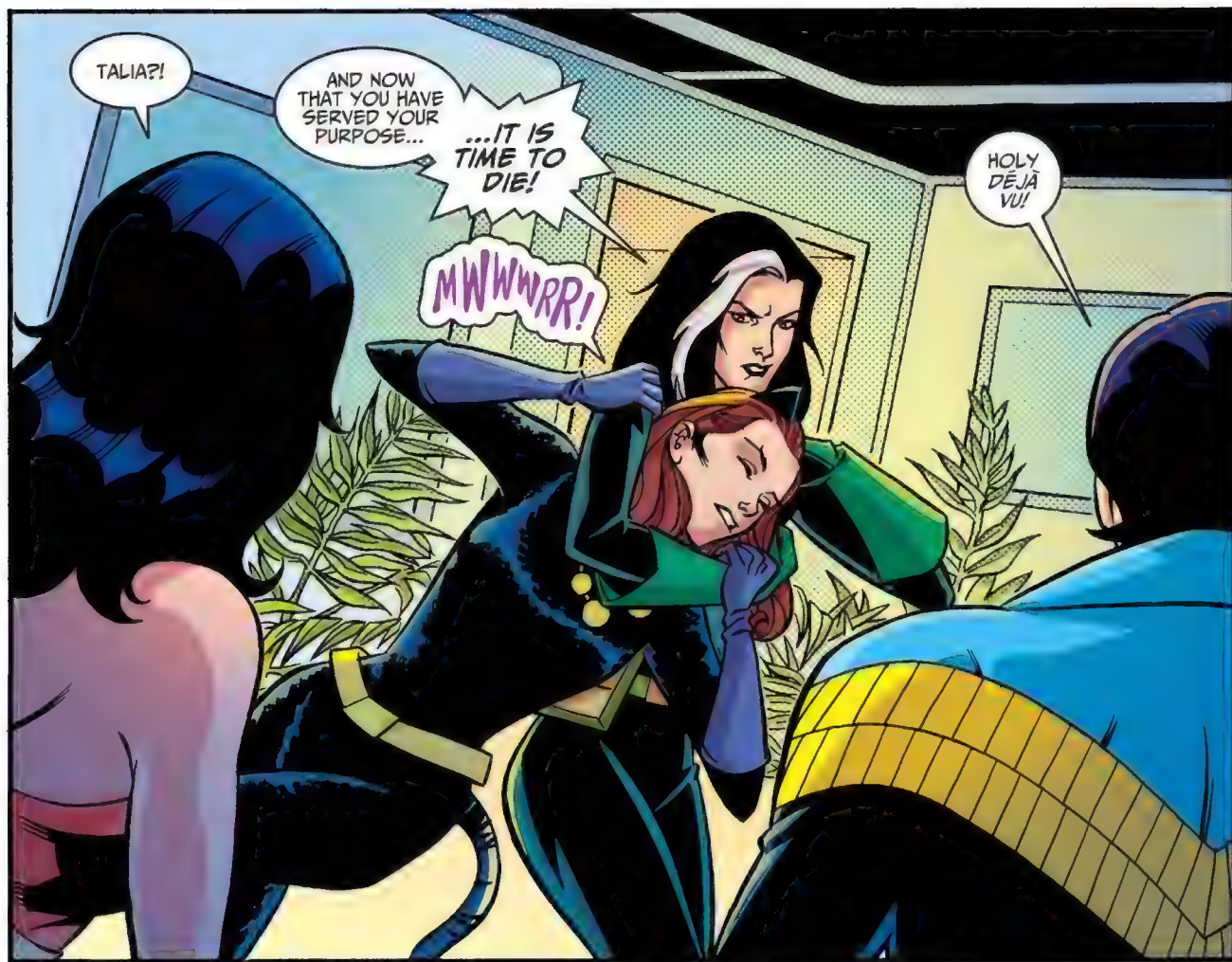












TALIA?!

AND NOW  
THAT YOU HAVE  
SERVED YOUR  
PURPOSE...

...IT IS  
TIME TO  
DIE!

MWWRR!

HOLY  
DÉJÀ  
VU!



RA'S AL  
GHUL!

IT'S A PITY  
YOU RETIRED  
YOUR COWL.

I WOULD  
HAVE PREFERRED  
KILLING YOU IN  
YOUR WARRIOR'S  
GARB.

TO BE  
CONTINUED!



DC UNIVERSE REBIRTH



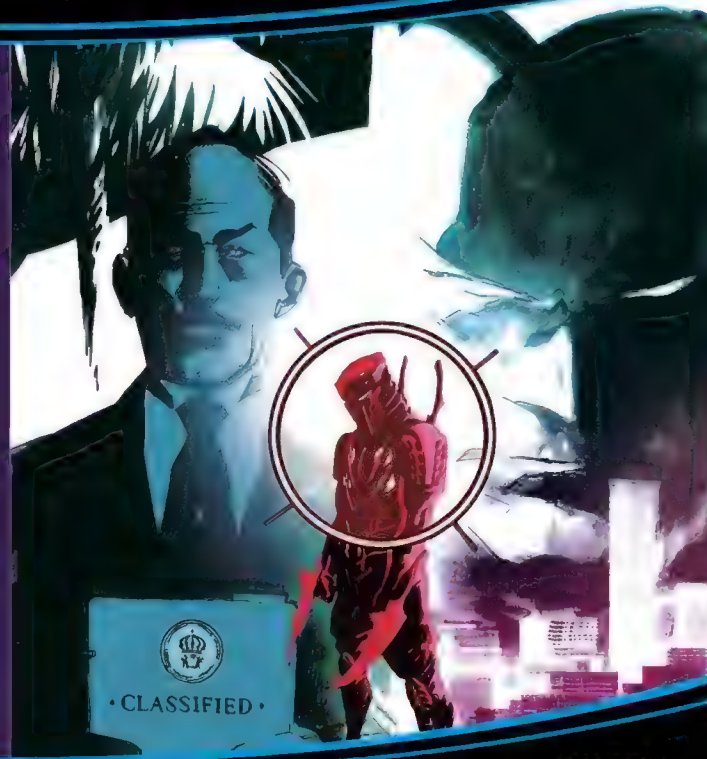
WHO IS THE FIRST ALLY?

ALL★STAR  
**BATMAN**

#10

THE  
**FIRST  
ALLY**

PART ONE



WRITTEN BY

**SCOTT SNYDER**

ART BY

**RAFAEL ALBUQUERQUE**

MONTHLY  
BEGINNING IN

**MAY**

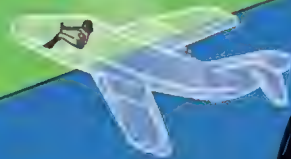


ANDREYKO  
PARKER  
HAHN  
WILLIAMS  
MADPENCIL



THE MEETS

Wonder  
Woman '77



CHAPTER  
11







CHAPTER  
11



# BATMAN '66 MEETS Wonder Woman '77

## CHAPTER 11

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**JEFF PARKER**

PENCILLER  
**DAVID HAHN**

INKER  
**BILL WILLIAMS**

COLORIST  
**MADPENCIL**

LETTERER  
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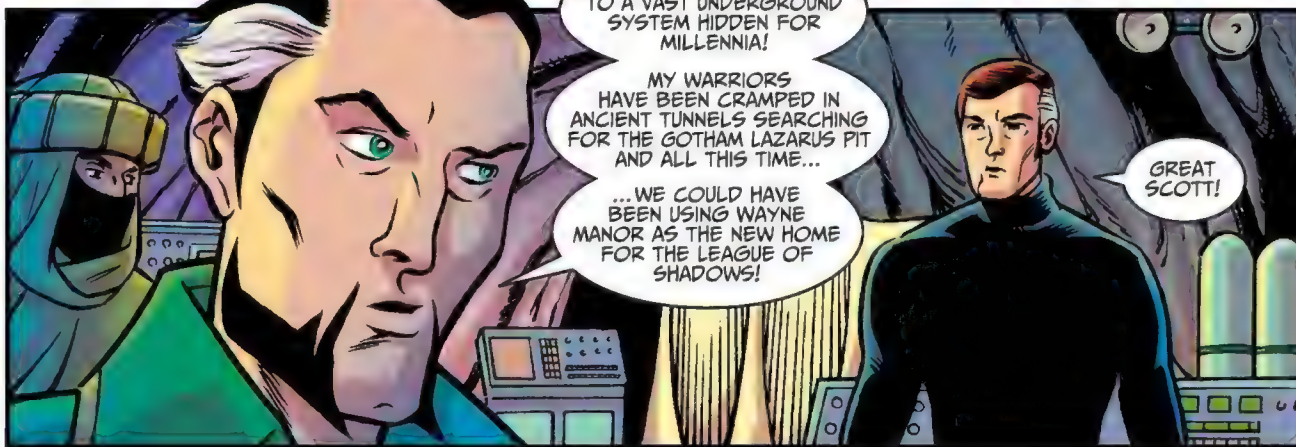






SO WE EXCAVATED TO FIND  
THE LEGENDARY BATCAVE.  
HA HA!

REMEMBER  
WHEN I WAS FIRST HERE  
IN THE '40s? I COULDN'T  
FIGURE WHERE YOUNG BRUCE  
HAD DISAPPEARED WITH  
THAT BOOK.



I WAS SO CLOSE  
TO A VAST UNDERGROUND  
SYSTEM HIDDEN FOR  
MILLENNIA!

MY WARRIORS  
HAVE BEEN CRAMPED IN  
ANCIENT TUNNELS SEARCHING  
FOR THE GOTHAM LAZARUS PIT  
AND ALL THIS TIME...

...WE COULD HAVE  
BEEN USING WAYNE  
MANOR AS THE NEW HOME  
FOR THE LEAGUE OF  
SHADOWS!

GREAT  
SCOTT!













HOLY DOJO  
WARS...  
...EVERYBODY IS  
KUNG FU FIGHTING!

"SO YOU LIVE IN COMPLETE  
SECRECY, NEVER LEAVING  
THE SHADOWS.

"MR. WAYNE... YOU'VE  
ALREADY EMBRACED THE  
WAYS OF MY LEAGUE.









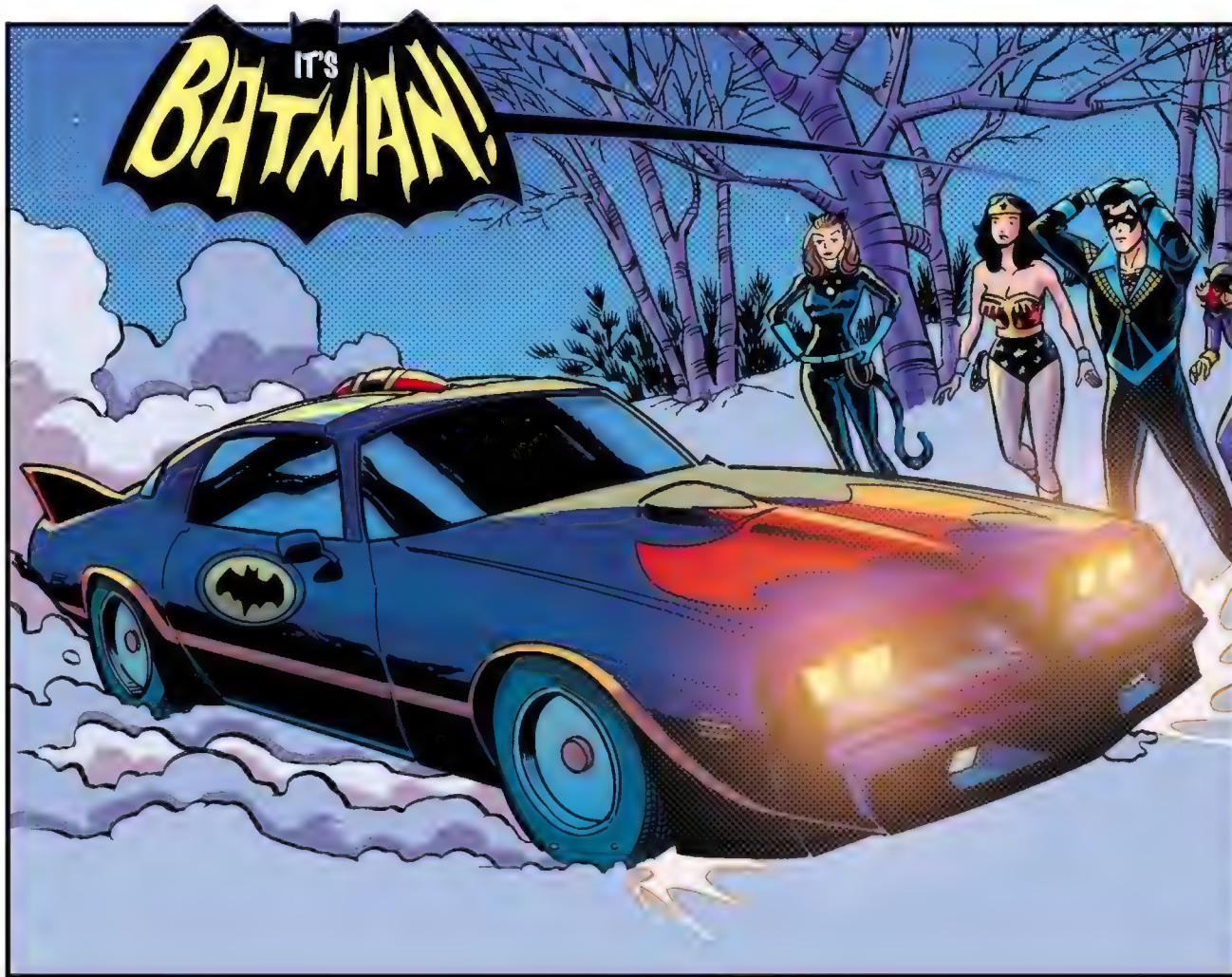




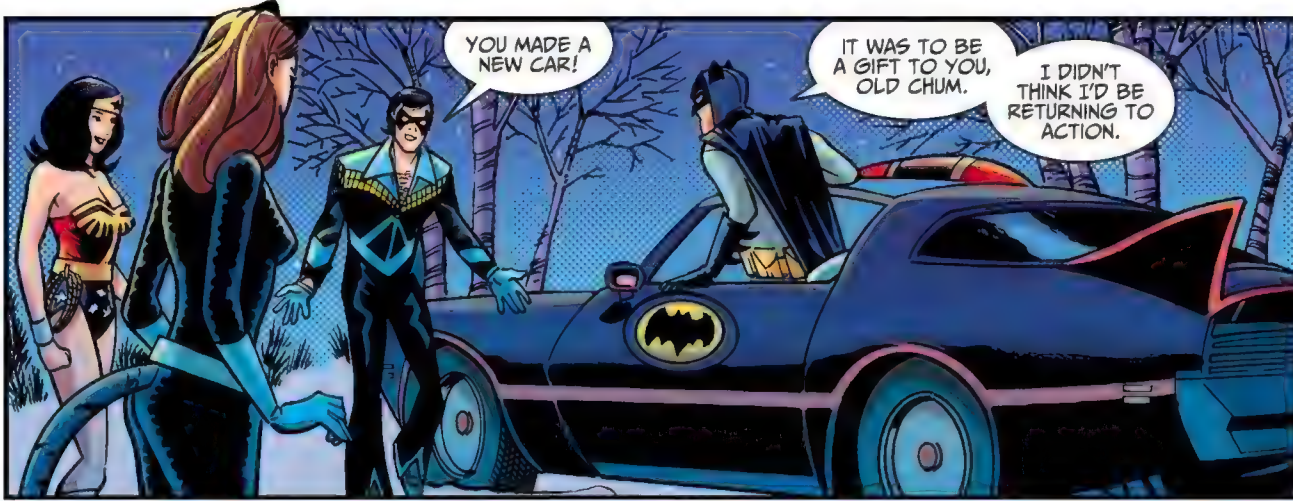


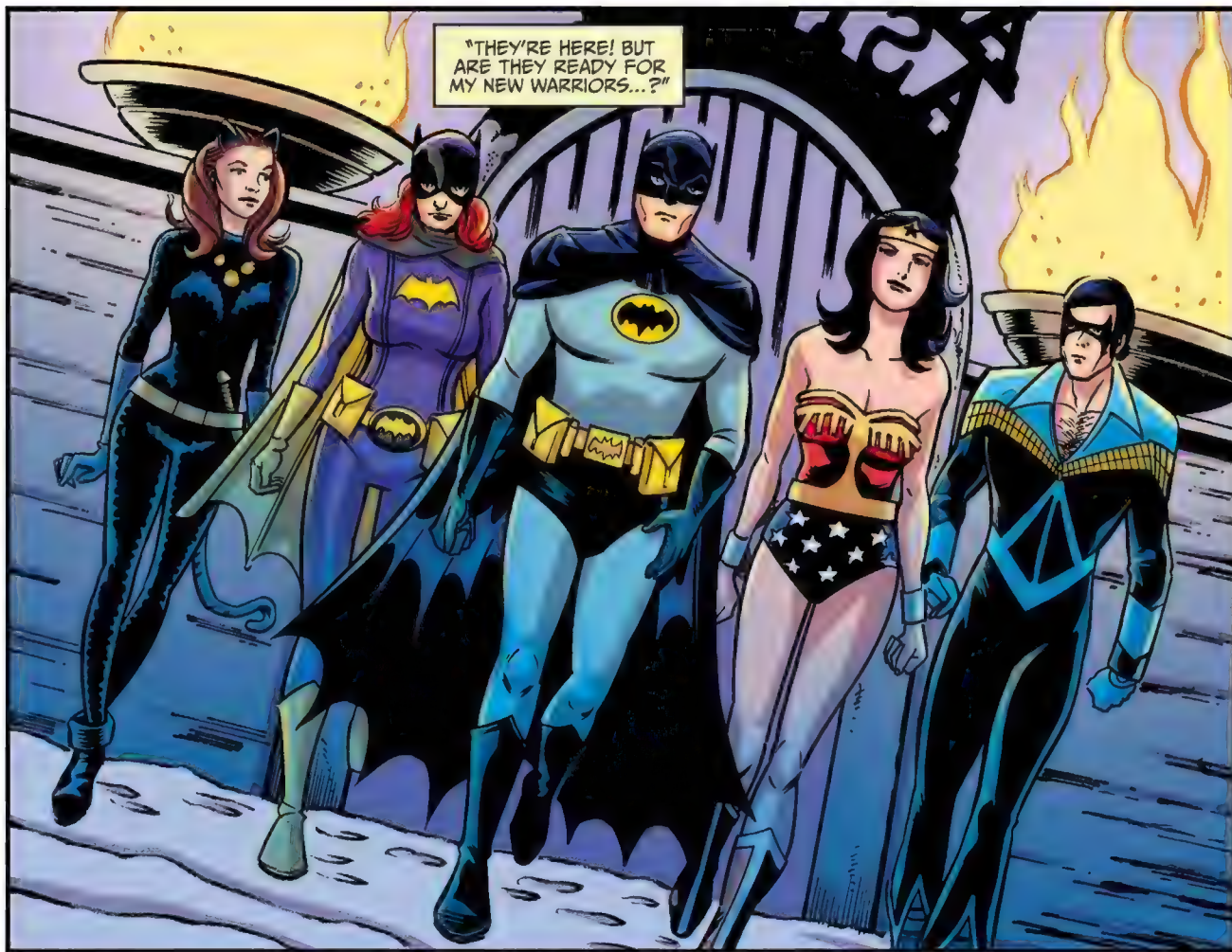






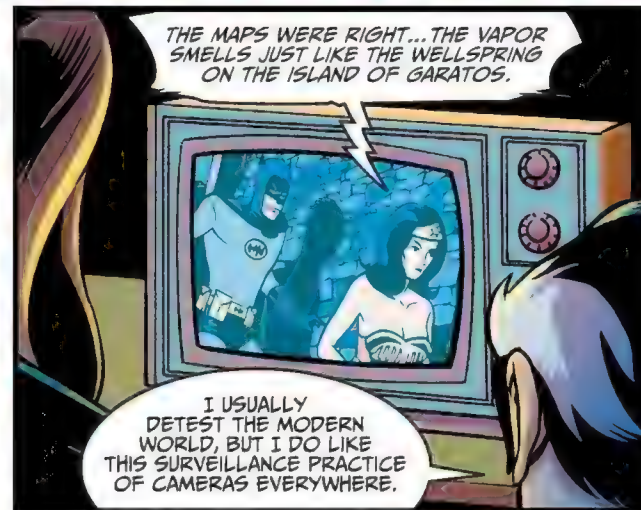




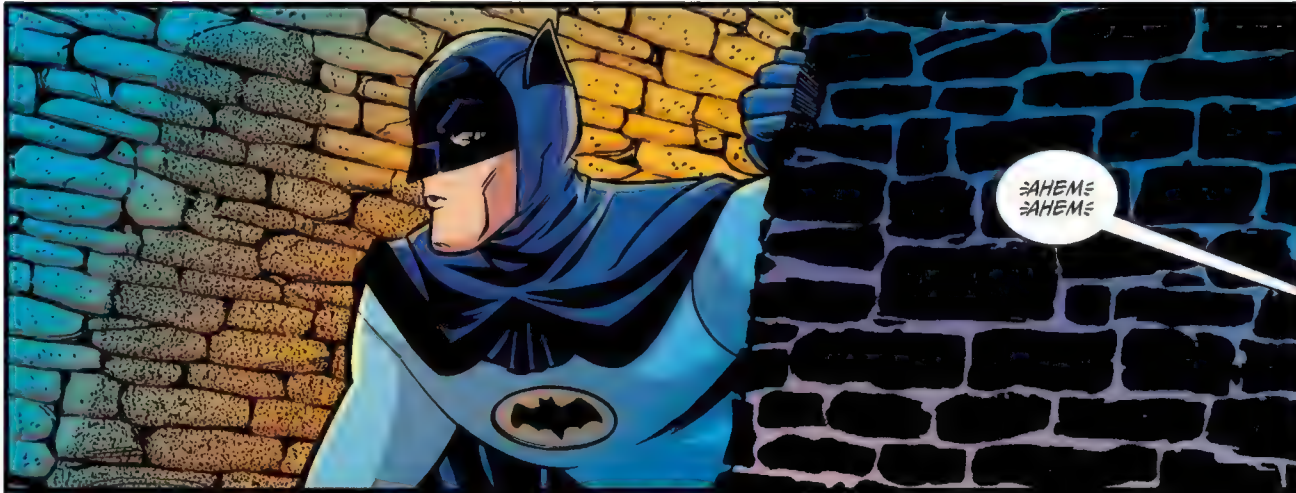


















A WHOLE  
LEAGUE OF  
THEM.

NEXT...  
**THE FINALE!**

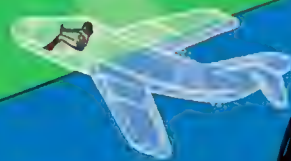


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HAHN  
KESEL  
MADPENCIL

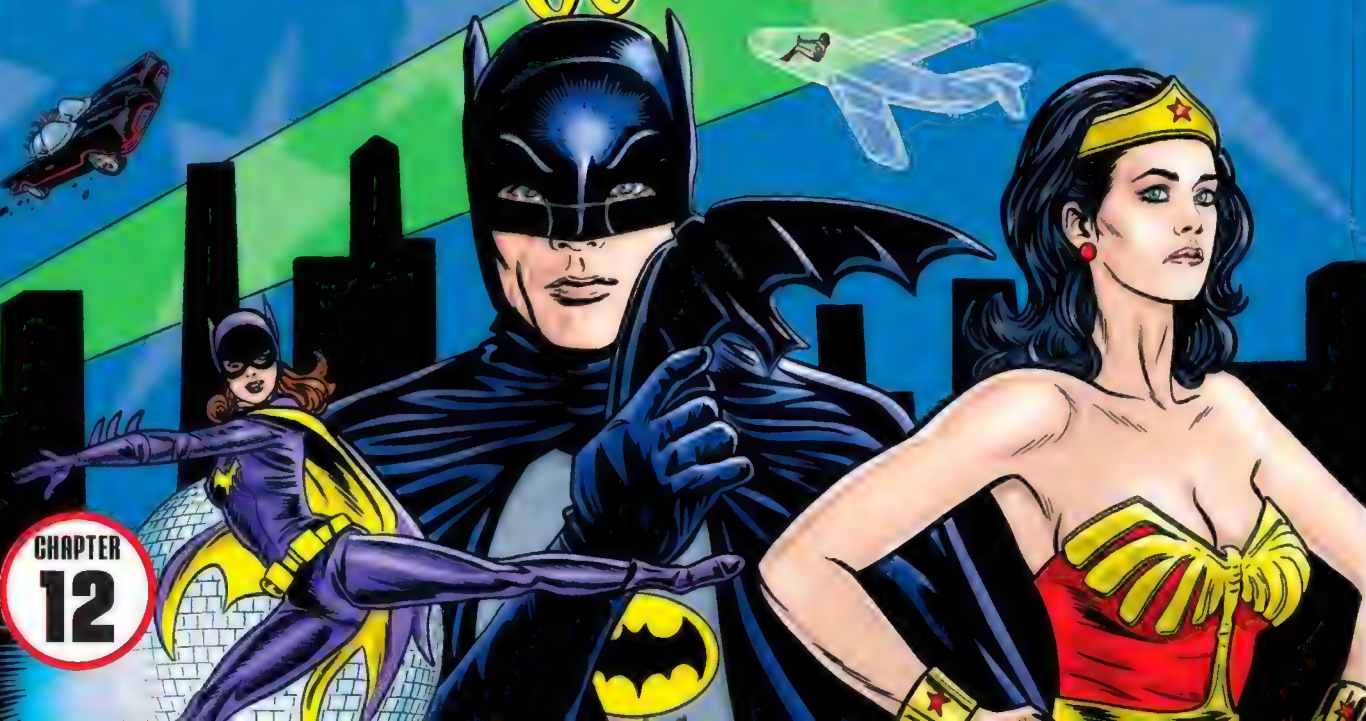


MEETS

Wonder  
Woman '77



CHAPTER  
12







# BATMAN '66

# MEETS Wonder Woman '77

BWHAH!



## CHAPTER 12

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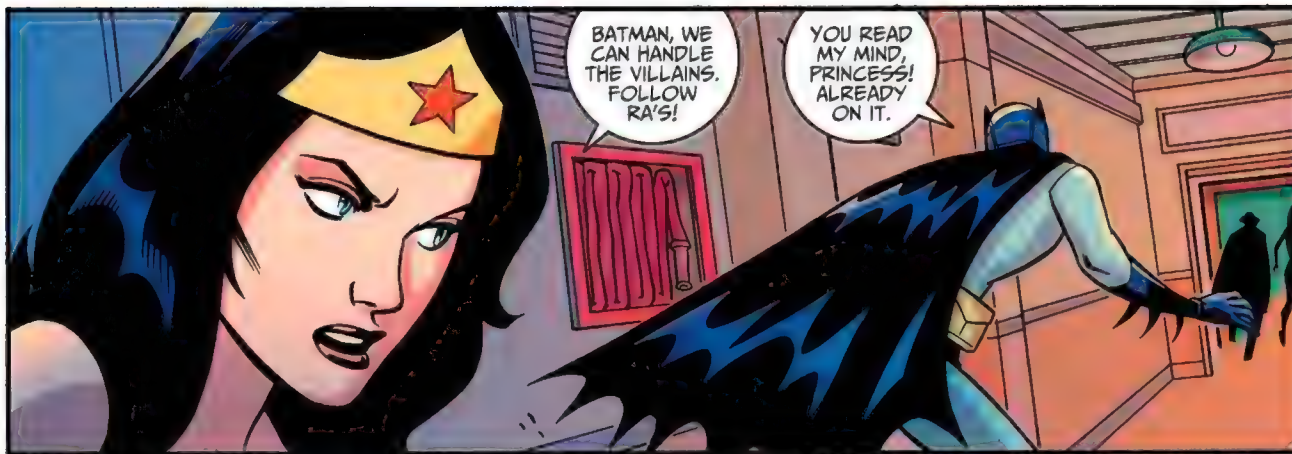
FATHER,  
WE'RE  
LEAVING?

THE ROGUES  
WILL KEEP OUR BAT-FOES AND  
THAT AMAZONIAN ANNOYANCE  
AT BAY! NOW, COME.

I NEED  
THE CURATIVE  
POWERS OF  
THE PIT!





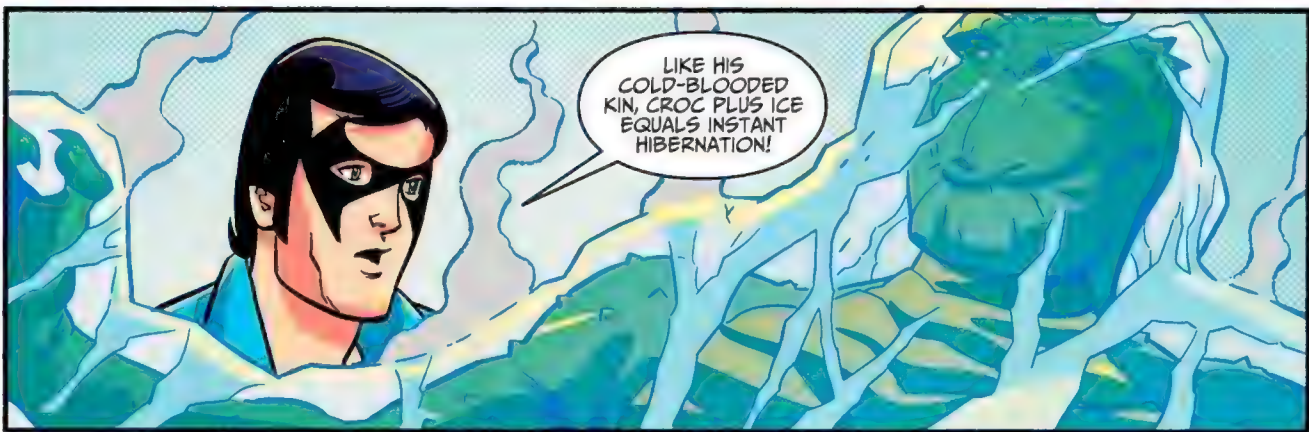
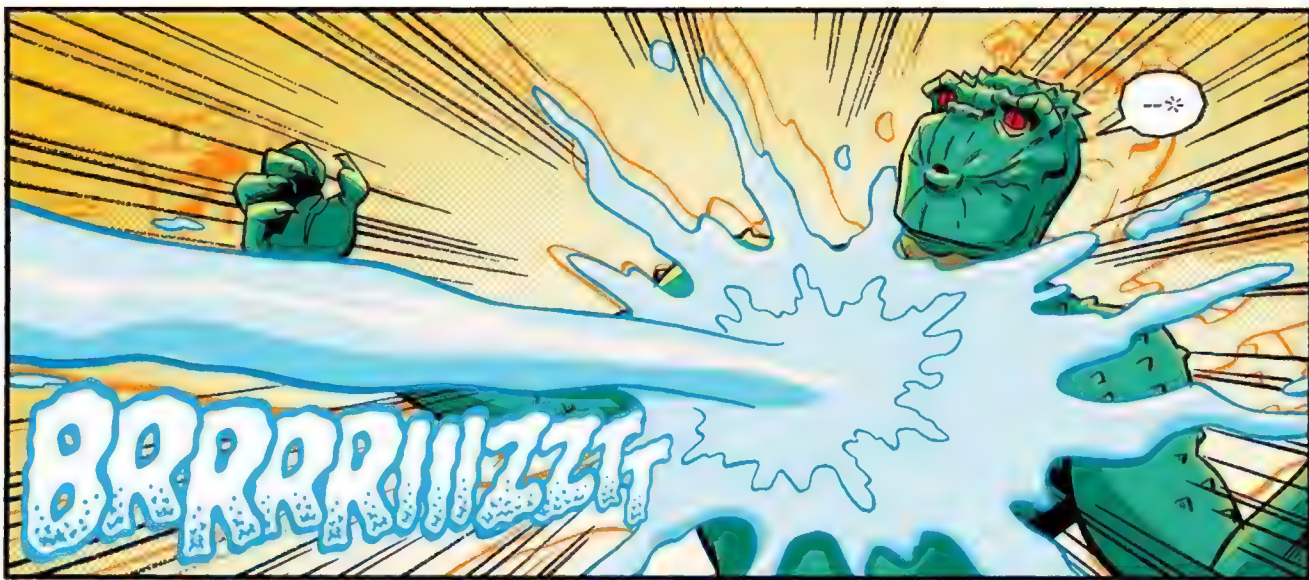


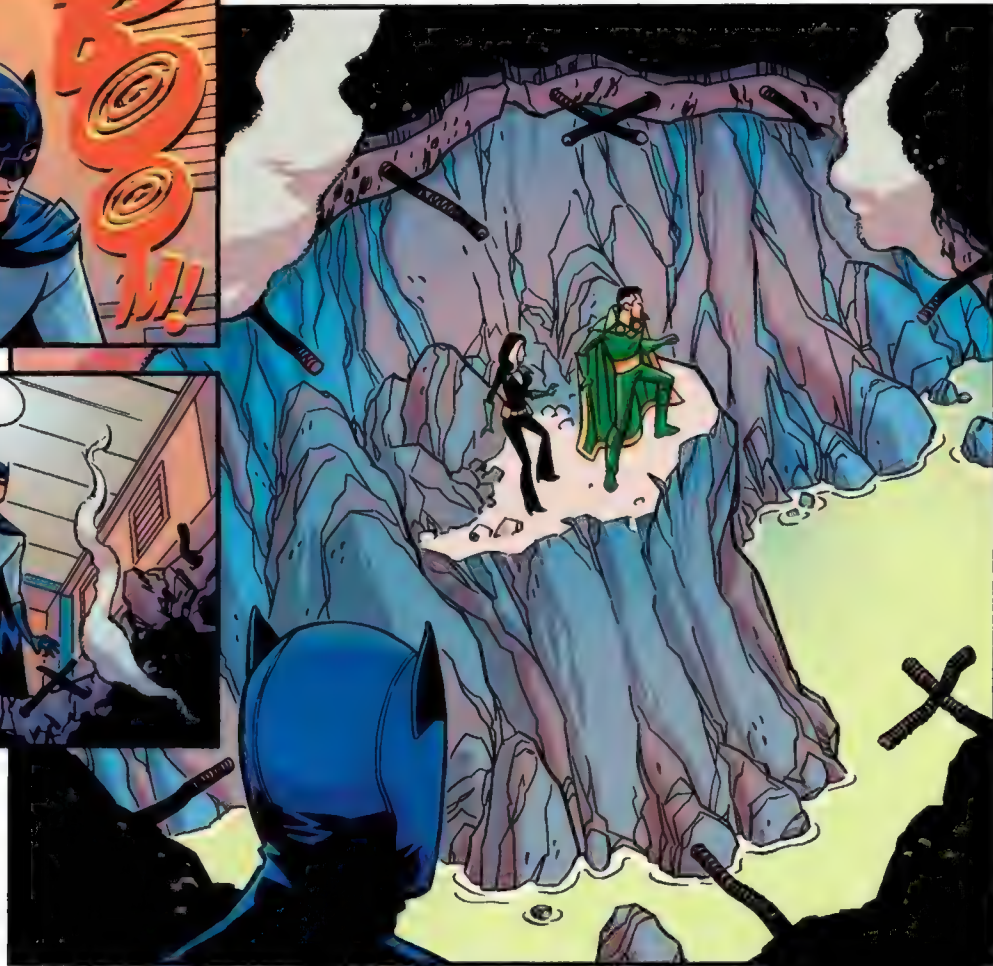




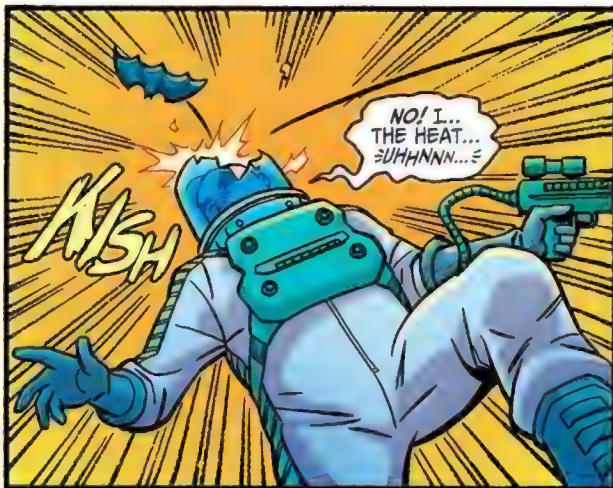






























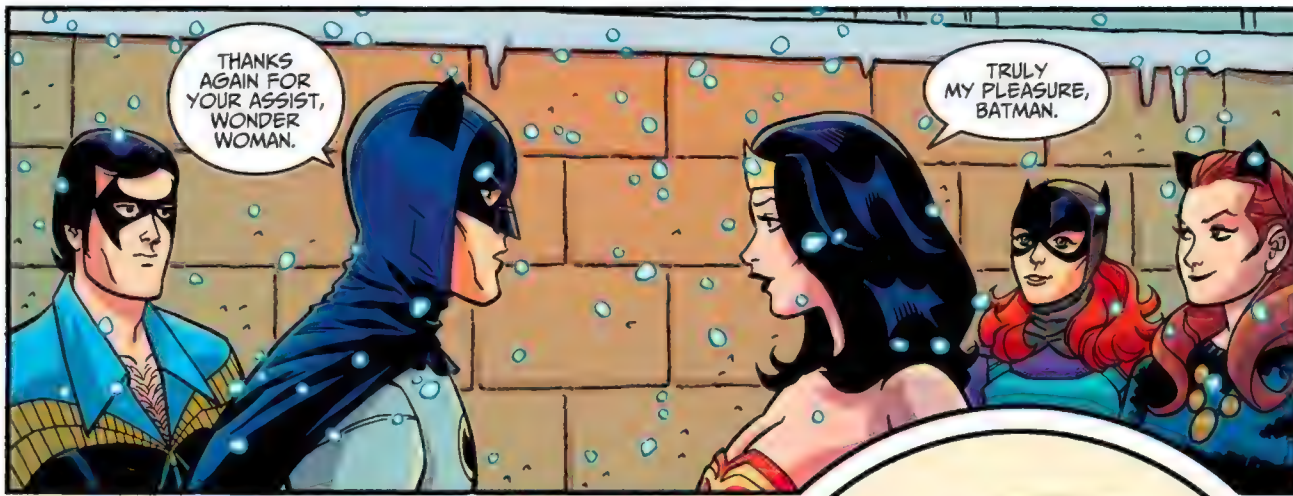










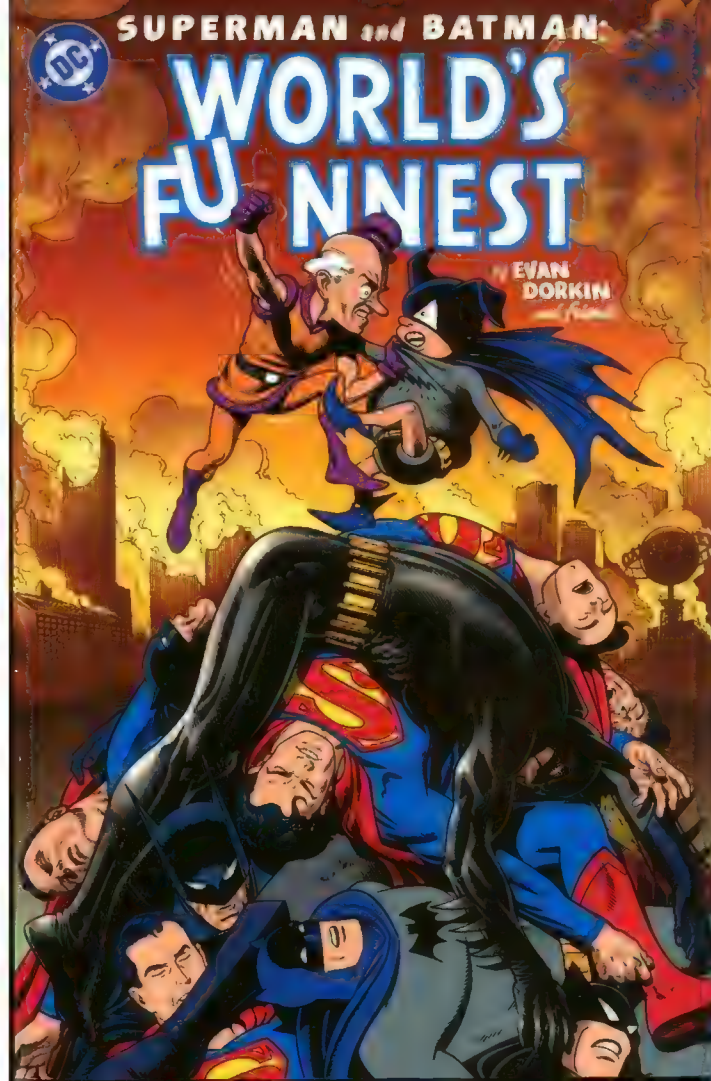




SUPERMAN and BATMAN

# WORLD'S FUNNEST

BY EVAN  
DORKIN







Writer: **EVAN DORKIN**

Artists: **MIKE ALLRED**, p. 19 • **BRIAN BOLLAND**, cover  
**FRANK CHO**, p. 21, 24 • **STEPHEN DESEFANO**, p. 29  
**DAVE GIBBONS**, p. 118, 60-62 • **JOE GIELLA**, inker, p. 22  
**JAIME HERNANDEZ**, p. 25-27 • **STUART IMMOMEN**, penciler, p. 22  
**PHIL JIMENEZ**, p. 49-52 • **DOUG MAHNKE**, penciler, p. 45-48  
**DAVID MAZZUCHELLI**, p. 10-14 • **FRANK MILLER**, p. 42-44  
**SHELDON MOLDOFF**, p. 20-21 • **GLEN MURAKAMI**, penciler, p. 40-41

**NORM RAPMUND**, inker, p. 45-48 • **ALEX ROSS**, p. 57-59

**SCOTT SHAW**, p. 24 • **JAY STEPHENS**, p. 37-39

**TY TEMPLETON**, p. 53-56 • **BRUCE TIMM**, inker, p. 40, 41

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Colorist and Separator: **DAVID MAZZUCHELLI**, pgs. 14-24

Superman created by **JERRY SIEGEL**

and **JOE SHUSTER**

Batman created by **BOB KANE**

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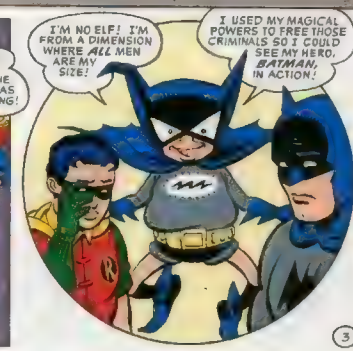
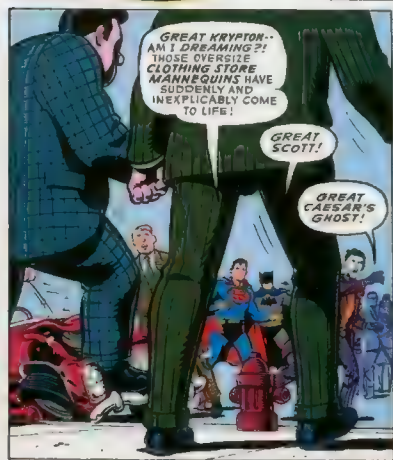
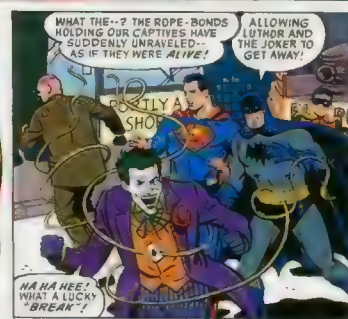
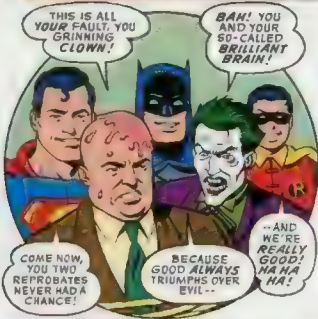
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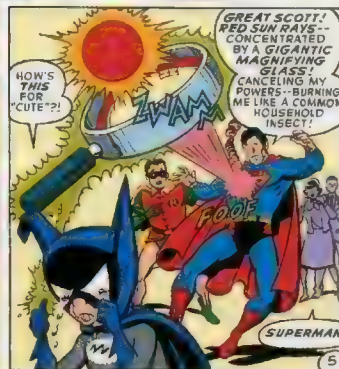
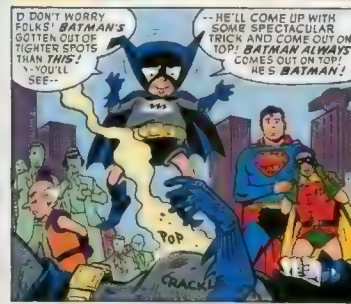
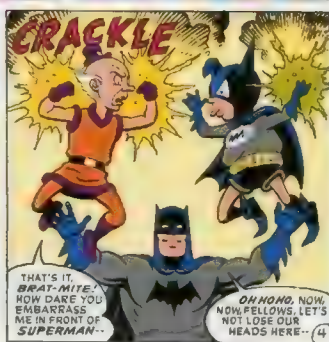
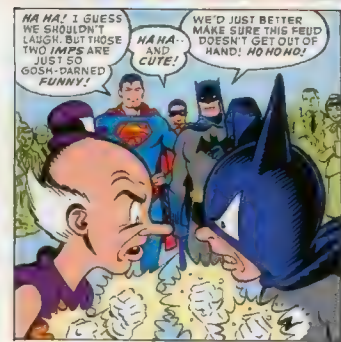
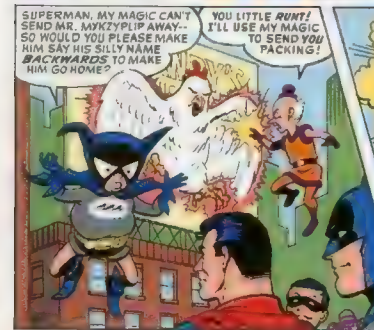
Cover Artist: Brian Bolland • Cover Color and Separator: Chris Chuckry • Pop!



**N**O, YOUR EYES DON'T DECEIVE YOU! THIS IS NOT A GAG, A DREAM OR AN IMAGINARY TALE! WELL, ACTUALLY, IT IS A GAG, WHICH HAS "DREAMT UP AND LET'S FACE IT, AREN'T ALL COMIC BOOKS "IMAGINARY TALES"? BUT WHATEVER THE CASE, THOSE TWO INTERDIMENSIONAL MYS BAT-MITE AND MR. MXYZPTLK REALLY ARE BACK! AND JUST WAIT UNTIL YOU SEE WHAT HAPPENS WHEN THOSE PESKY PESTS START A WEIRD AND WACKY WAR, WITH THE WINNER THE...







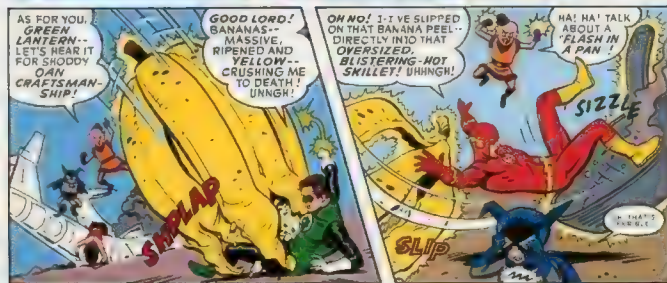
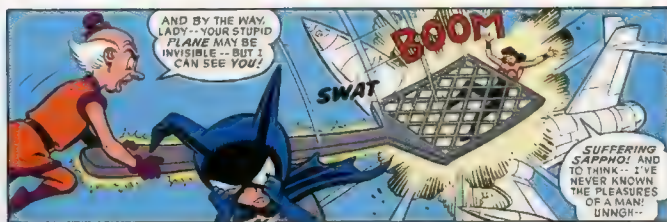




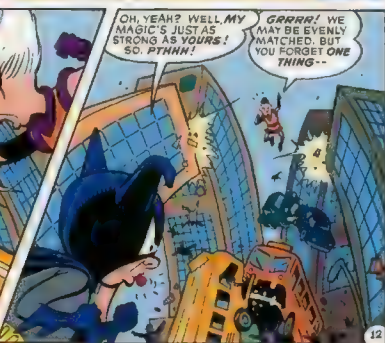




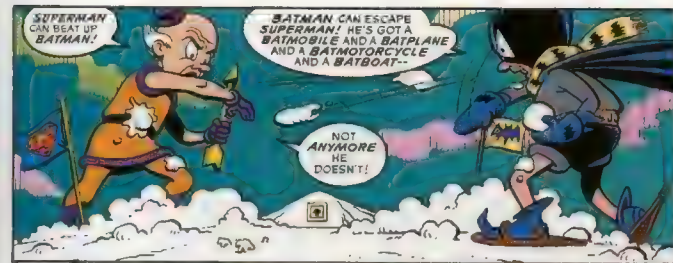
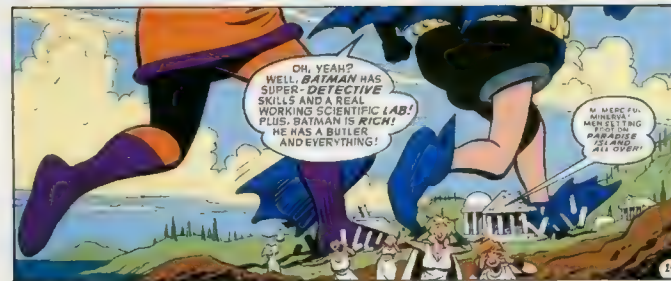


















TCH! SEE?  
I TOLD YOU!  
NOW LOOK WHAT  
YOU DID! YOU  
DESTROYED  
THE WHOLE  
UNIVERSE!

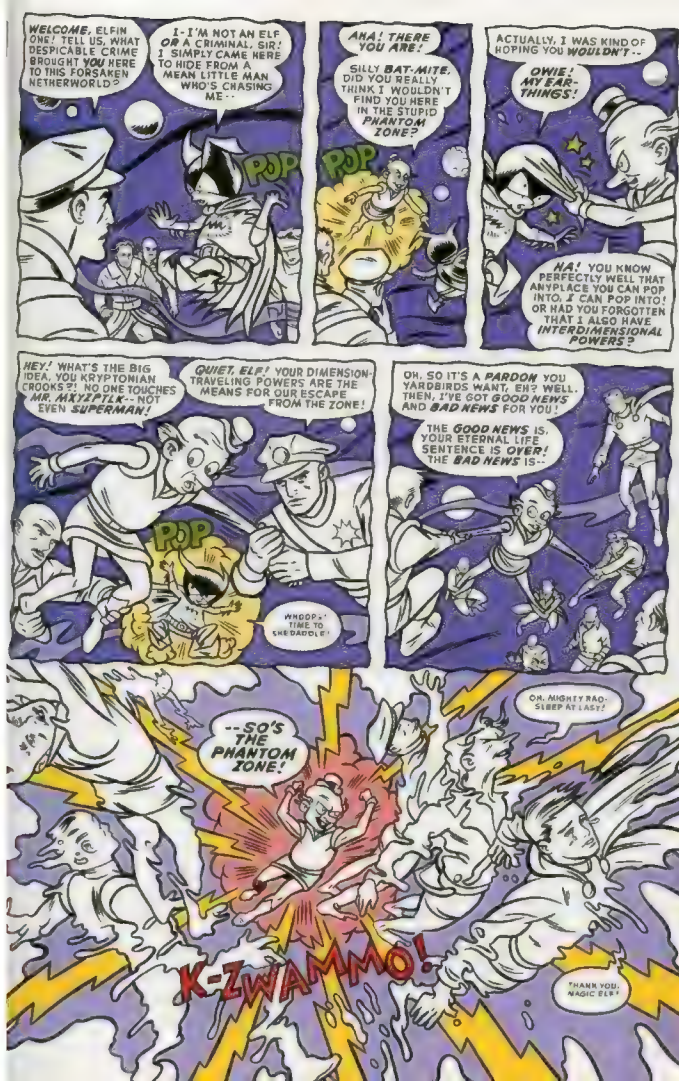


GOOD!  
I'M GLAD I  
DESTROYED THE  
WHOLE UNIVERSE!  
BECAUSE NOW THERE'S  
NOWHERE LEFT FOR  
YOU TO RUN!

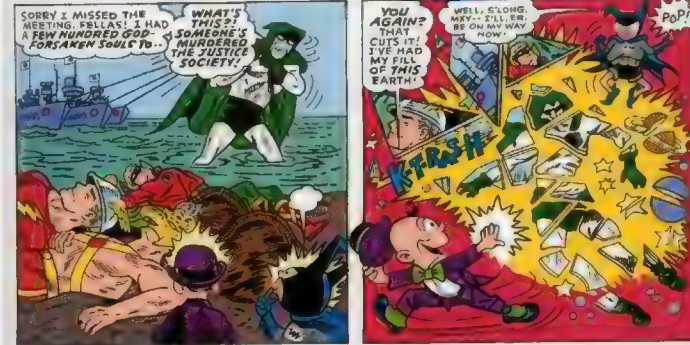
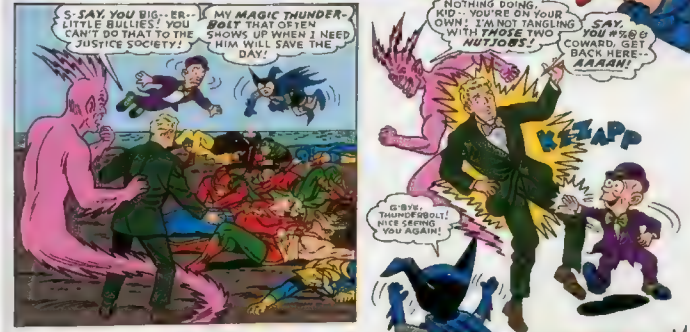
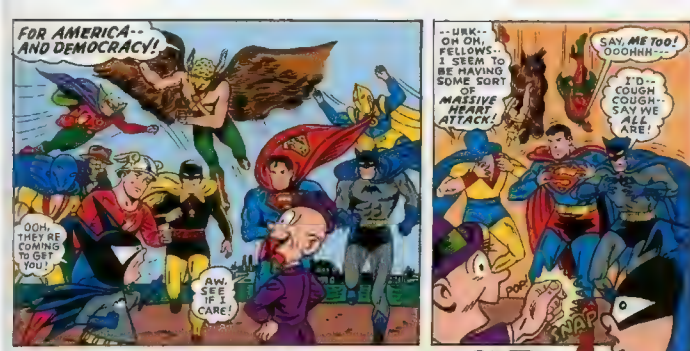
OH, IS  
THAT SO?  
WELL, I HAVE  
NEWS FOR YOU,  
MR. MXLYPTS--



--THERE'S  
PLENTY OF  
PLACES LEFT  
TO GO YET!



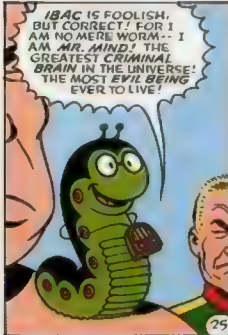






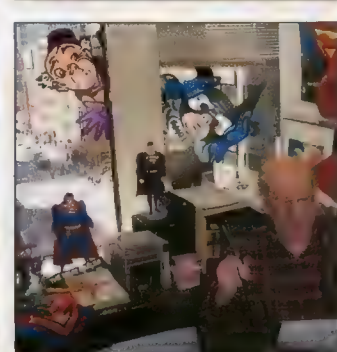
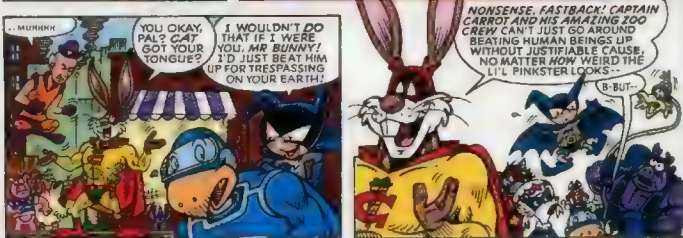
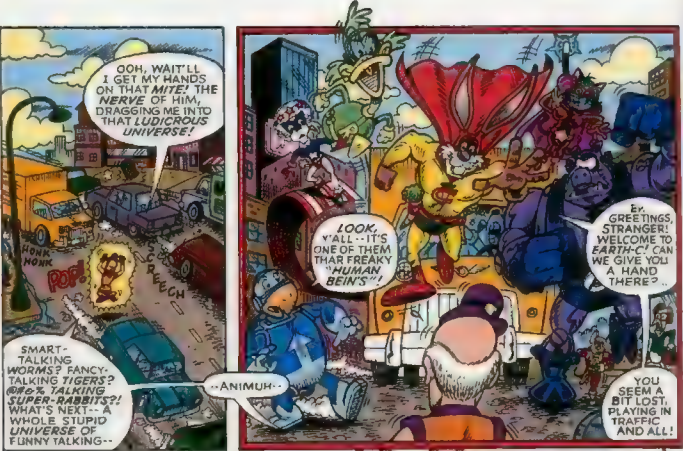


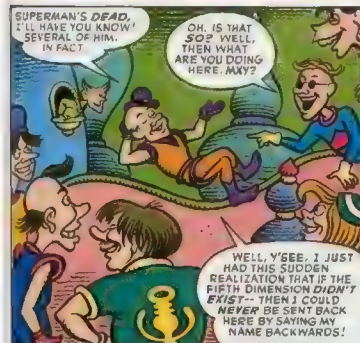
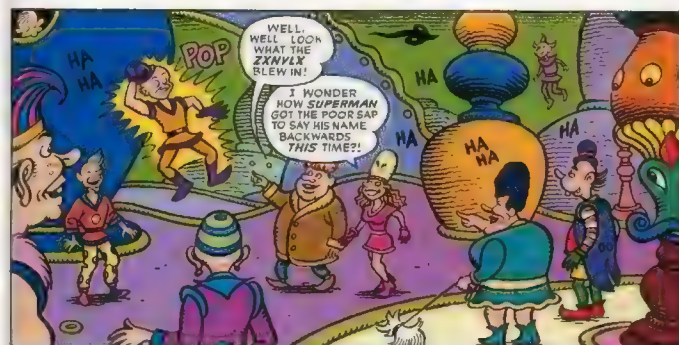
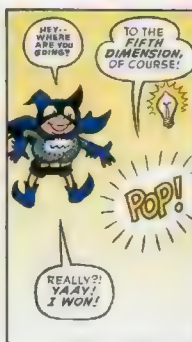
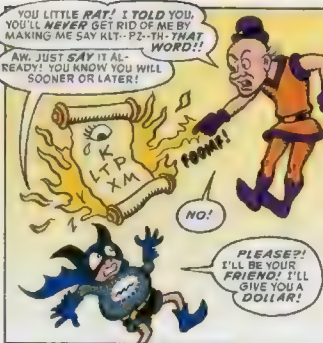
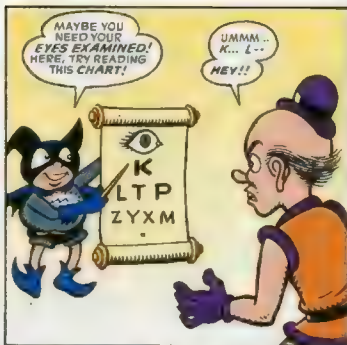




















--DARKSEID!! HE WHO IS MIGHT ABOVE ALL!!

HE WHOSE CONSUMMATE POWER SHALL BE UNLEASHED LIKE A WILLFUL STORM UPON THE COSMOS!! -- GIVING NO QUARTER!! -- OFFERING NO ESCAPE!!!

AND THOUGH THE HEAVENS BE SHATTERED, THE DREAM WILL BE REALIZED!! THE SECRET TO THE "ANTI-LIFE" EQUATION WILL AT LONG LAST BE MINE!!

AND NO MAN-- NO FORCE-- NO GOD-- CAN STOP ME!!--

AHA! THERE YOU ARE YOU LITTLE CREEP!



OOOH, WAIT!! I GET MY MITTS ON YOU, YOU--

WHAT?-- WHO DARES DISTURB GREAT DARKSEID ON THE CUSP OF HIS GREATEST TRIUMPH?!

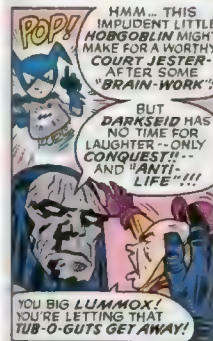
WORRY NOT, MASTER! LOYAL KALIBAK WILL REWARD THESE GNATS FOR THEIR RUDENESS-- WITH TORMENTS NONE HAVE DARED DREAM OF!



SILENCE YOU PRATTLING DOGS!! YOUR CALLOW BOOTLICKING OFFENDS ME!!

YOU BAT-SUITED SLOB! I'LL KEELHAUL YOU!

DARKSEID NEEDS ONLY HIMSELF TO DEAL WITH THIS STRANGE INTRUSION!!



POP!

HMM... THIS IMPUDENT LITTLE HOBGOBLIN MIGHT MAKE FOR A WORTHY COURT JESTER-- AFTER SOME "BRAIN-WORK"!!

BUT DARKSEID HAS NO TIME FOR LAUGHTER-- ONLY CONQUEST!-- AND "ANTI-LIFE"!!!

YOU BIG LUMMOX! YOU'RE LETTING THAT TUB-O-GUTS GET AWAY!



ENOUGH! YOU ANGER ME, WHELP! NOW LET ME PAY PROPER RESPECT TO SUCH FOOLISHNESS!!--

BEHOLD THE "OMEGA EFFECT"!!-- THE END OF THE END!!-- THE TOTAL "WIPE-OUT"!! BATHE IN IT AND KNOW OBLIVION!!!

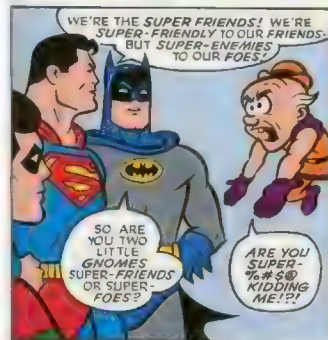
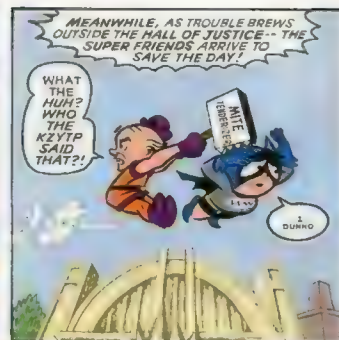


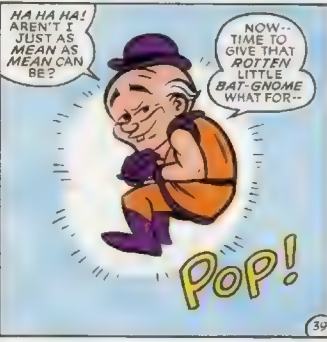
THANKS FOR THE LIGHT, FRANKENSTEIN.

NOW IT'S MY TURN.

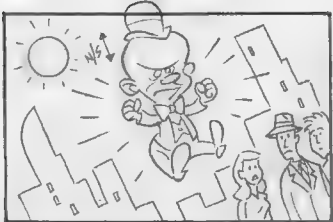












Mxy POPS into Metropolis, mad as hell.



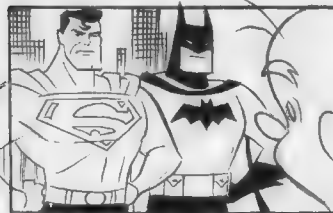
Mxy picks up Lois's car to look underneath it for Bat-Mite.



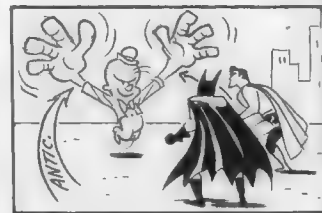
He levitates the Daily Planet building, but still no sign of Bat Mite.



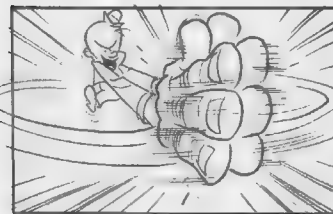
Close on Mxy as he reacts to Superman's o.s. voice.



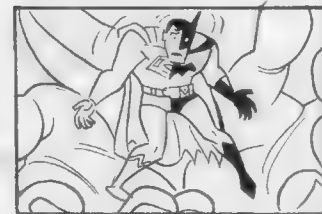
Mxy's POV of Superman and Batman; they're not happy to see him.



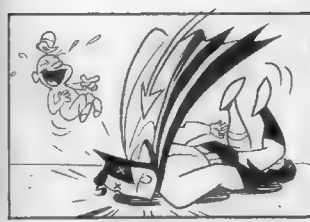
Mxy angrily surrounds Superman and Batman with his enlarged hands.



He CLAPS his big hands around Superman and Batman.



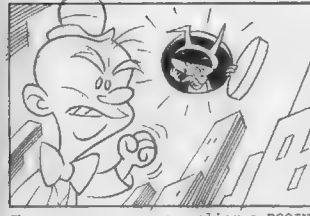
Mxy removes his hands, revealing smashed together Composite Superman.



Mxy hovers over dead Composite Superman, laughing hysterically.



Suddenly he looks around, confused by o.s. BOOING & HISsing.



The sun opens up, revealing a BOOING Bat Mite behind it.



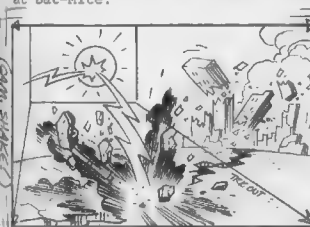
Bat-Mite whistles nervously, realizing his cover's been blown.



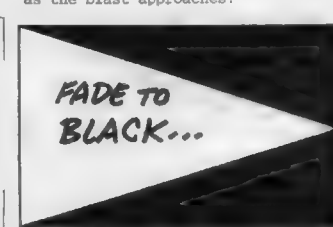
Mxy freaks out and hurls a magic blast at Bat-Mite.



Bat-Mite panics, and "closes" the sun as the blast approaches.

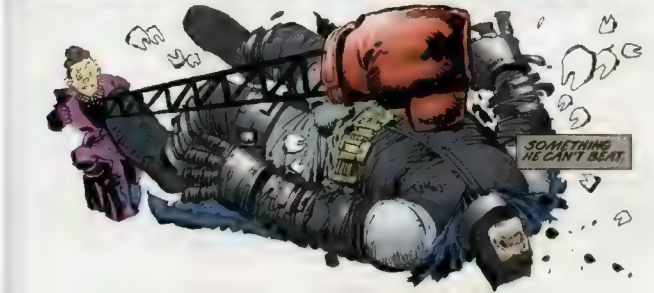
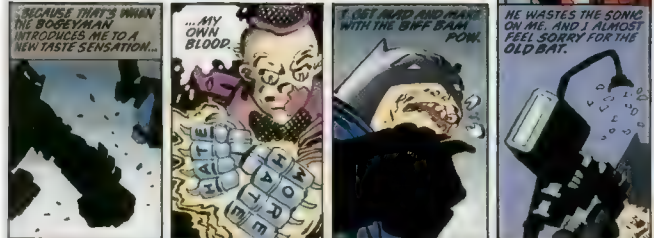
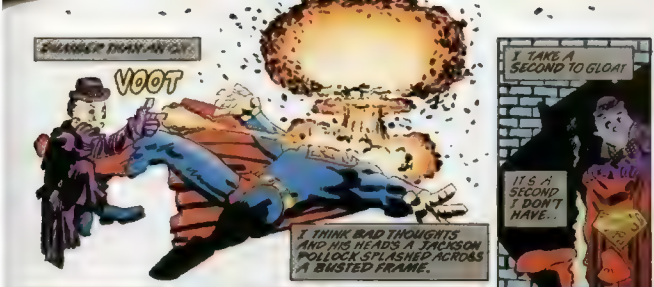
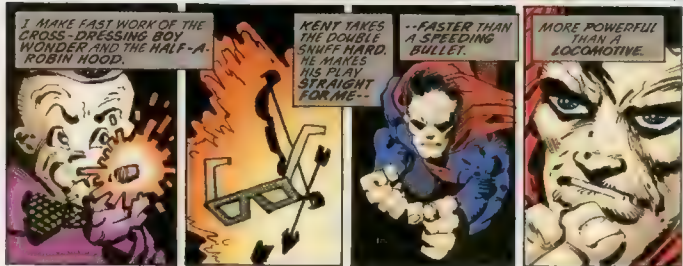


Mxy's blast hits the sun, destroying everything.



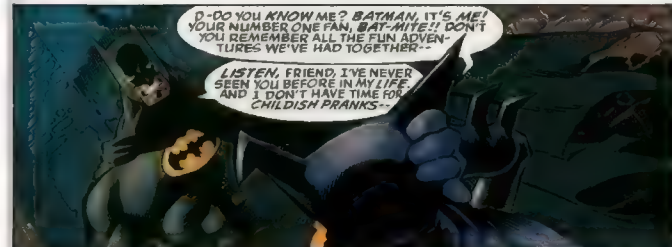
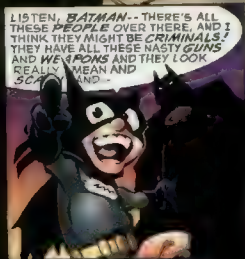
Fade to black.

CUT TO:













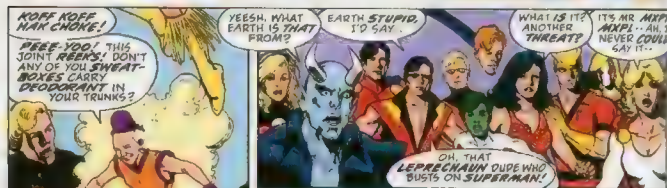




HEY, YA  
MIND? I'M  
WALKING  
HERE

ONE SIDE  
ONE SIDE!  
LET A MAN  
THROUGH

MOVE IT, YA  
BIG DUMB APES!



KOFF KOFF  
NAY CHOK!

FREE-YO! THIS  
JOINT REEKS! DON'T  
ANY OF YOU SHIRT-  
BOXES CARRY  
DEODORANT IN  
YOUR TUNGS?

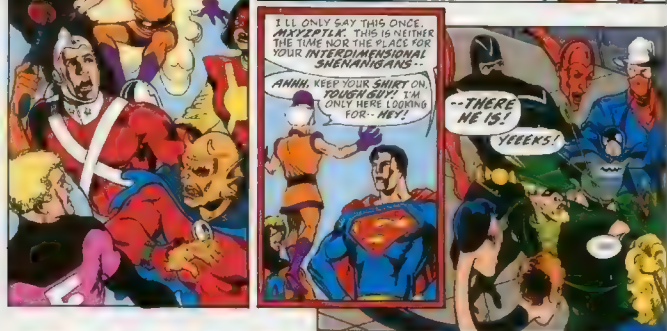
YEEH. WHAT  
EARTH IS THAT  
FROM?

EARTH STUPID.  
I'D SAY.

WHAT IS IT?  
ANOTHER  
THREAT?

IT'S MR. MXP!  
MXP!.. AH, I  
NEVER COULD  
SAV IT.

OH, THAT  
LEPRECHAUN DUDE WHO  
BUSTS ON SUPERMAN!



I'LL ONLY SAY THIS ONCE,  
MXP!.. THIS IS NEITHER  
THE TIME NOR THE PLACE FOR  
YOUR INTERDIMENSIONAL  
SHENANIGANS--

ANNN. KEEP YOUR SHIRT ON  
TOUGH GUY! I'M  
ONLY HERE LOOKING  
FOR.. NEY!

..THERE  
HE IS!

YEEKS!



WHAT THE--  
ANOTHER  
ELF?

DRESSED  
IN A CRAZY  
BATMAN  
COSTUME!

YEECH!  
HE'S GOT EVEN  
WORSE LEGS  
THAN ROBIN..

O'MERE, YOU!  
YOU'RE DEADDER  
THAN EARTH-X!

NO! TOO  
MANY HAVE  
DIED  
ALREADY!



OH  
REALLY?  
I DON'T  
THINK  
SO

GREAT  
BEGOTT!  
K-KRYPTONITE  
F-TOMBS  
STONE--

..W-  
WITH  
MY  
NAME  
ON IT!

IT ISN'T FAIR!  
SUPERMAN SAID  
IT WAS OVER!

DON'T YOU  
GET IT? IT'S  
OVER FOR  
US!

LET'S  
KILL THE  
B\*Y'S!

I WAS  
WAITING  
FOR  
SUPERMAN  
TO DO SOME  
THING!

W HE  
KILLED  
SUPERMAN!  
WHY DIDN'T  
SOMEONE DO  
SOMETHING?



OKAY,  
YOU  
SLOBB!  
I HOPE  
YOU'RE  
HAPPY!

OW! QUIT  
IT! I'M NOT  
WITH HIM!

..CAUSE NOW YOU'VE  
GOT REAL CRISIS  
ON YOUR HANDS!



STAND BACK! I  
SENSE POWERFUL  
MAGIC IN THESE  
BUILDINGS-- AAGH!!

EVERYONE! IF WE  
WORK TOGETHER  
WE CAN--  
UNNN!! FIRESTORM!  
UNNN!!

VIBE.. GUY'S DEAD.  
YOU'LL HAVE TO TRY TO  
VIBRATE US FREE--

I CAN'T  
VIBRATE  
BLACK  
LIGHTNING  
UNNN!!

FIREHAWK!  
AAGH!

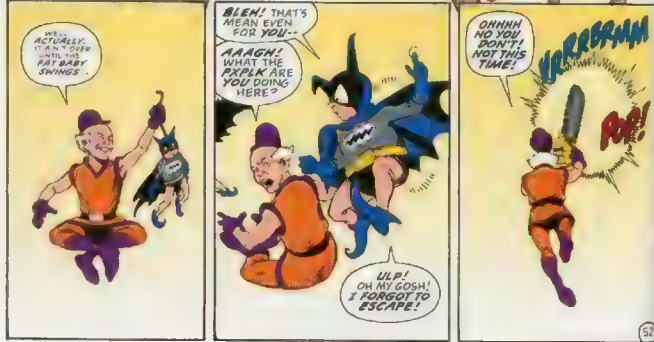
WILDFIRE--  
I MEAN  
WILDCAT--  
AAGH!!

THE  
SPECTRE!  
HE'S  
DEAD!

HARBINGER,  
LADY QUARK...  
YOU BOTH KNOW  
I HATE BEING  
THE BEARER OF  
BAD TIDINGS--

..BUT SOMETHING TELLS  
ME WE'RE NOT GETTING  
OUT OF THIS ONE!

























meets

# LOONEY TUNES

"It's the most likely to  
be the best collision of  
two worlds."  
—SYFY WIRE



LEE  
WEEKS



meets

LOONEY  
TUNES



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WONDER WOMAN created by WILLIAM MOUTON MARSTON

LOBO created by ROGER SLIFER and KATH GIFFEN

MARTIAN MANHUNTER created by JOE SAMACHSON and JOE CERTA

SUPERGIRL based on characters created by JERRY SIEGEL and JOE SHUSTER

SUPERBOY created by JERRY SIEGEL

By special arrangement with the Jerry Siegel family



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## DC MEETS LOONEY TUNES

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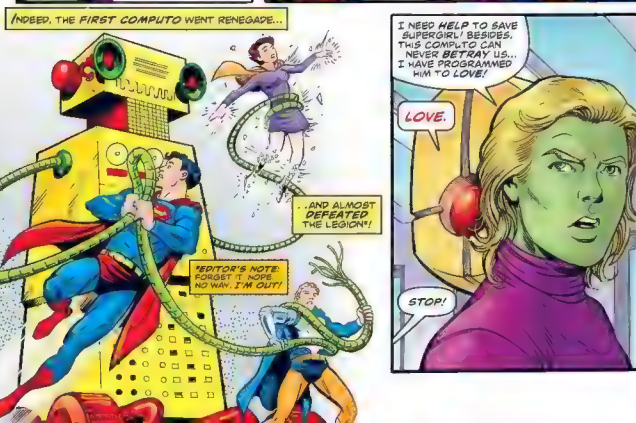
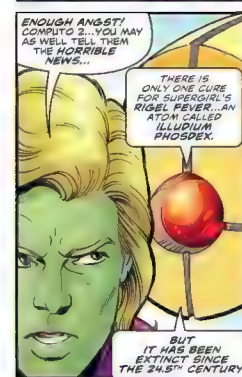
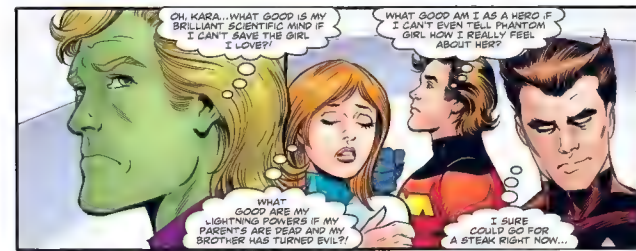
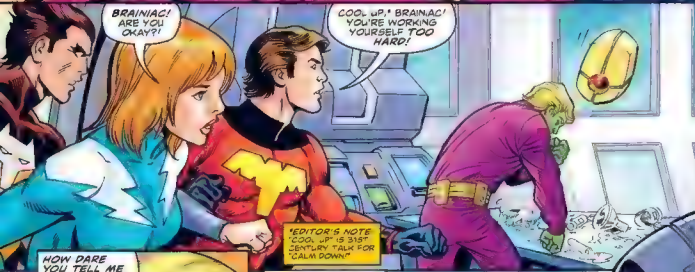




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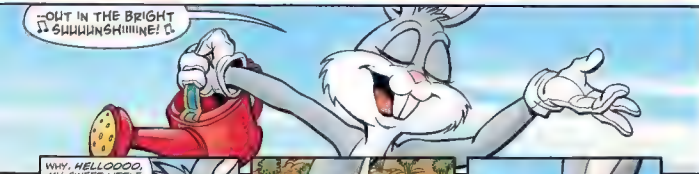
# THE HERO SMALLVILLE DESERVES!

WE TRAVEL AS WELL TO  
21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY SMALLVILLE  
HOME OF...SUPERBOY!



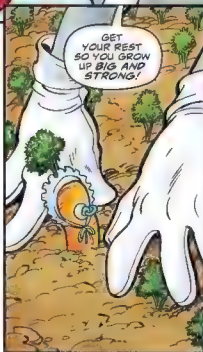
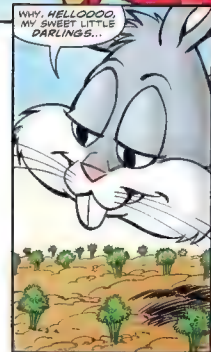
OHNNNNNNH,  
IT AIN'T NO  
CRIME TO  
BE FEELIN' FINE  
OUT IN THE WARM  
SUNSHINE!

OUT IN THE BRIGHT  
SHUNSHININE!



WHY, HELLOOOO,  
MY SWEET LITTLE  
DARLINGS...

GET  
YOUR REST  
SO YOU GROW  
UP BIG AND  
STRONG!

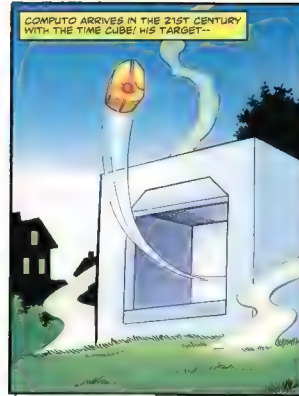


BABY  
CARROTS!

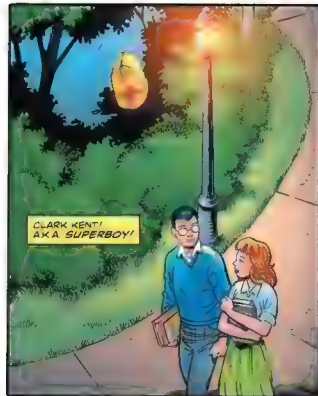
MEANWHILE,  
ACROSS TOWN...



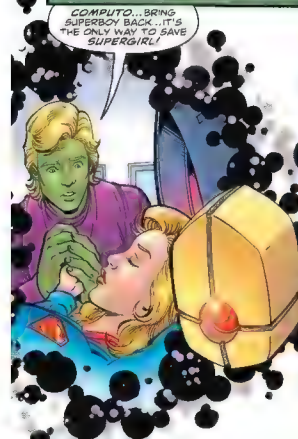
COMPUTO ARRIVES IN THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY  
WITH THE TIME CUBE! HIS TARGET...



CLARK KENT!  
AKA SUPERBOY!



COMPUTO... BEING  
SUPERBOY BACK... IT'S  
THE ONLY WAY TO SAVE  
SUPERGIRL!

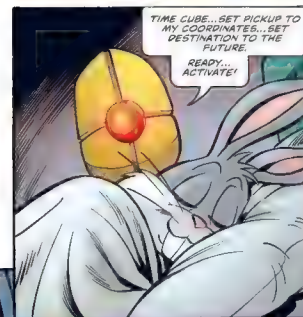
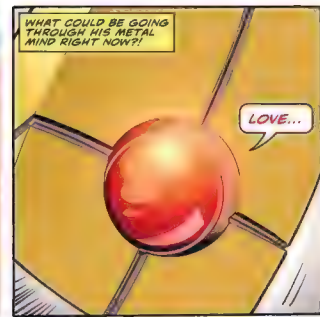
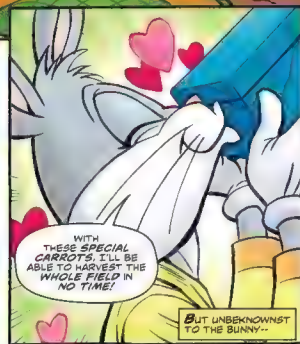
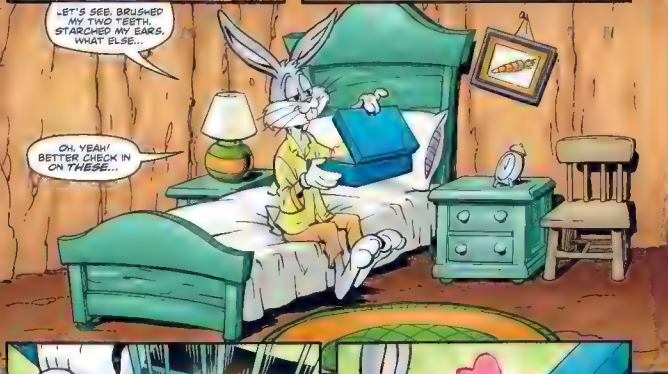
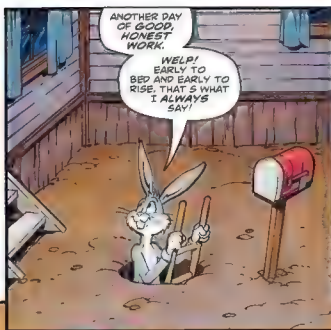


COMPUTO HESITATES!  
BUT WHY?



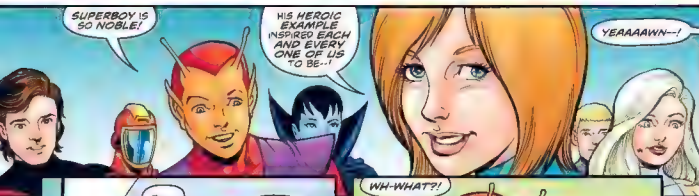
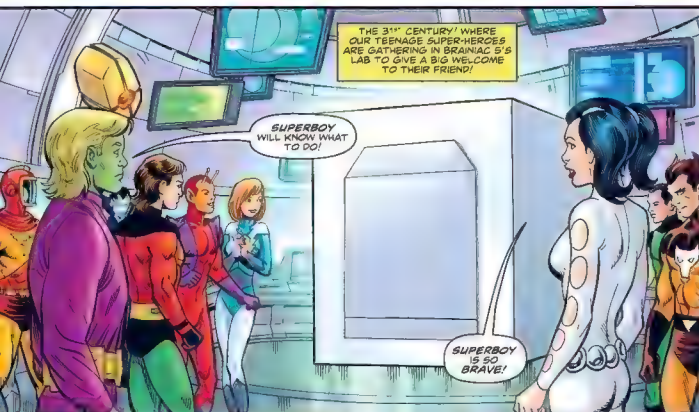
GOOD  
NIGHT!





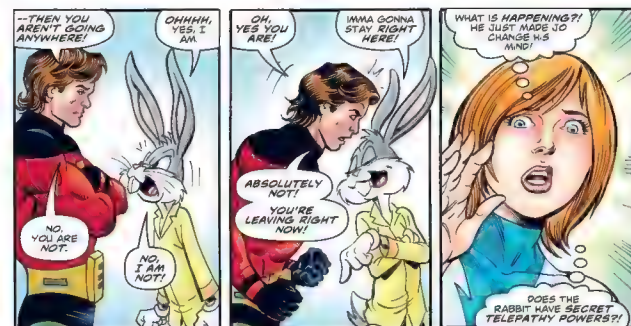
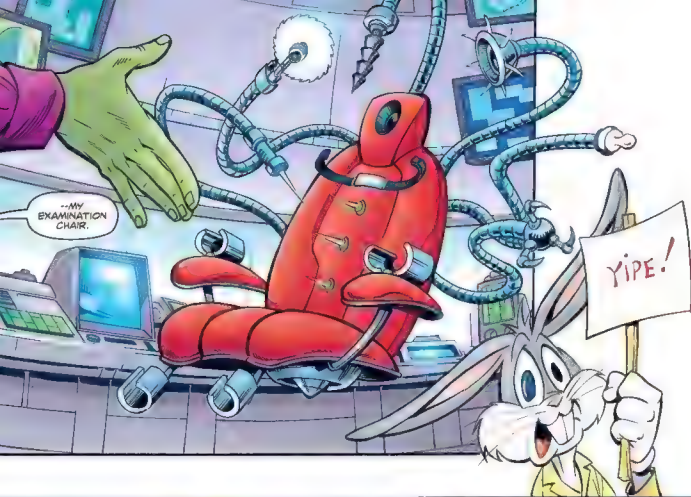


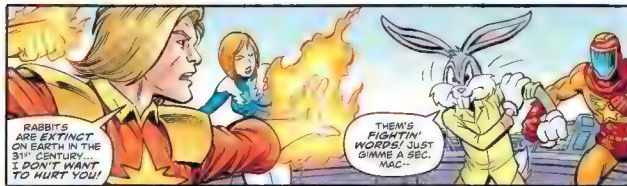
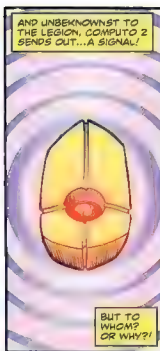
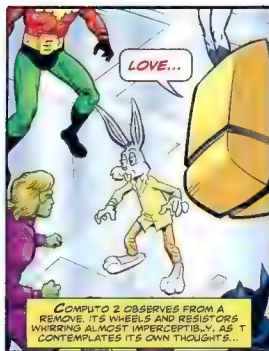
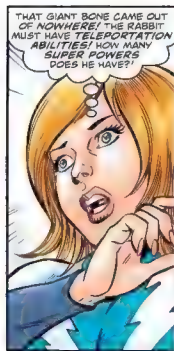
# RABBIT OF THE SUPER-FUTURE!















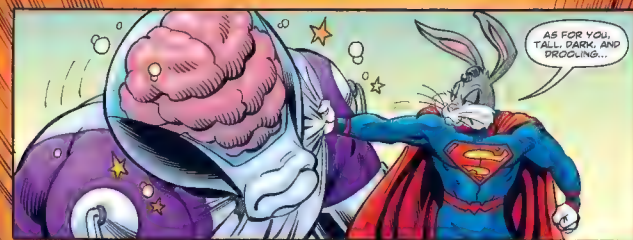
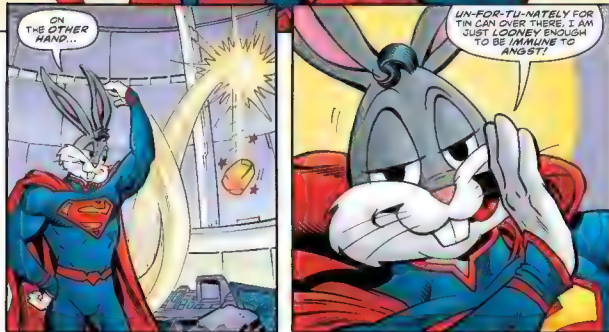
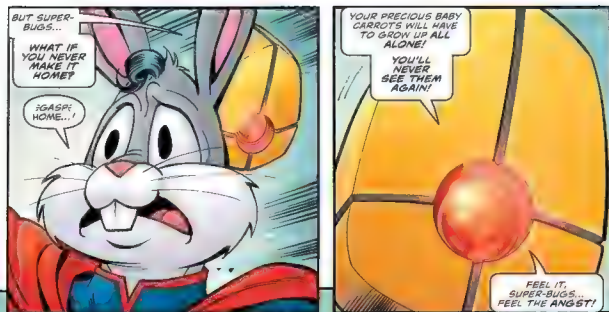


# THE CURSE OF THE LEGION!





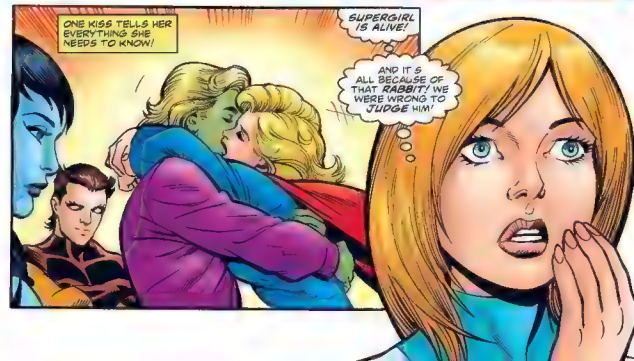
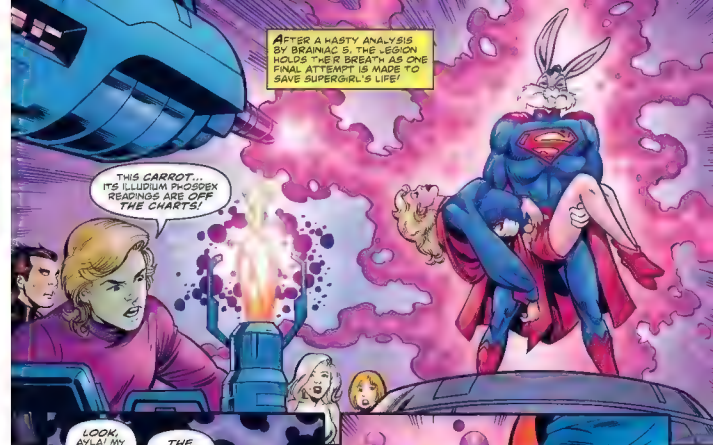
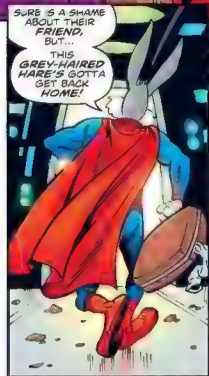
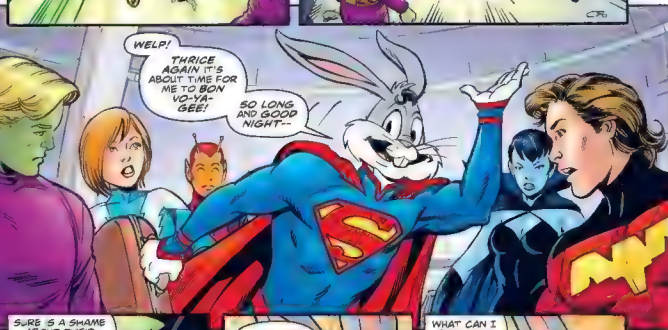
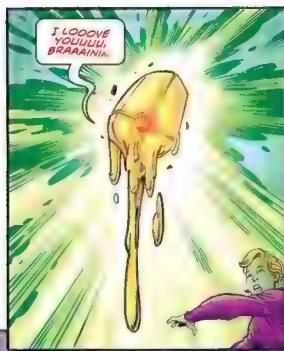




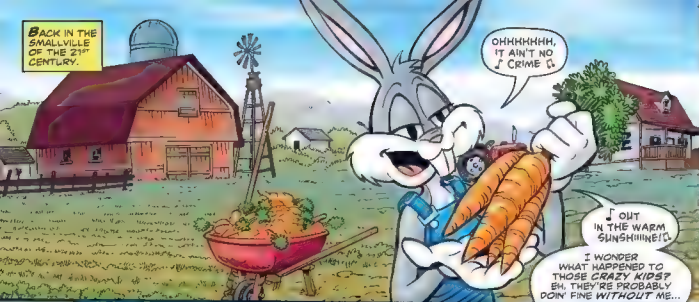


# FUNERAL FOR A FRIEND?

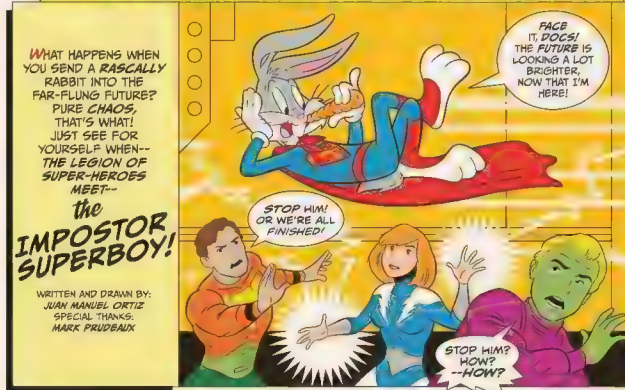






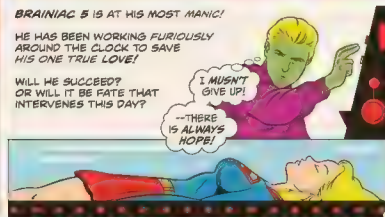
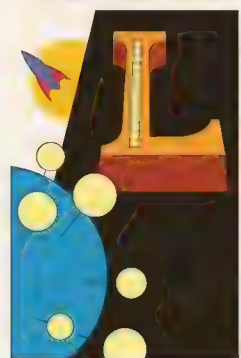


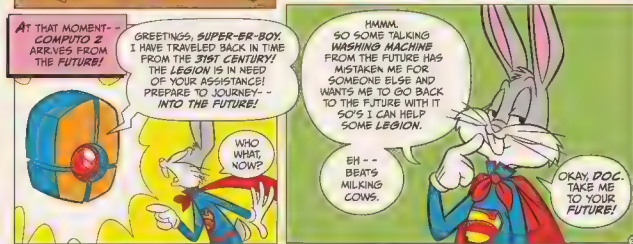
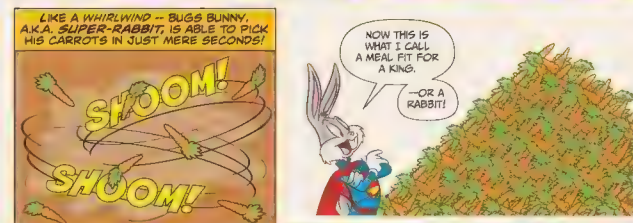
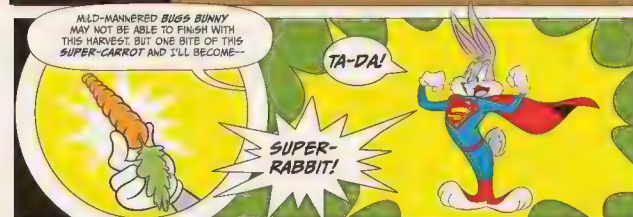
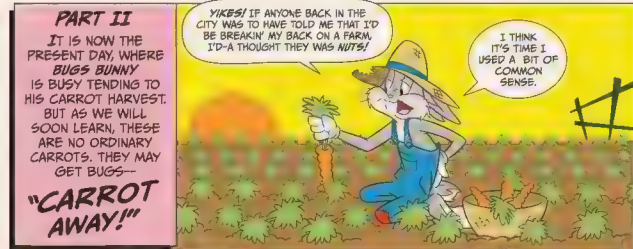
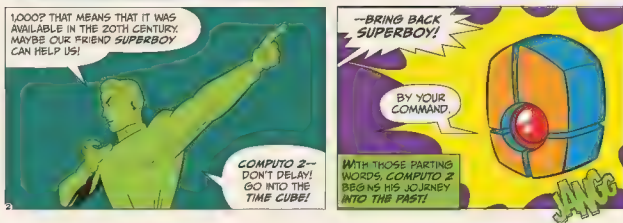
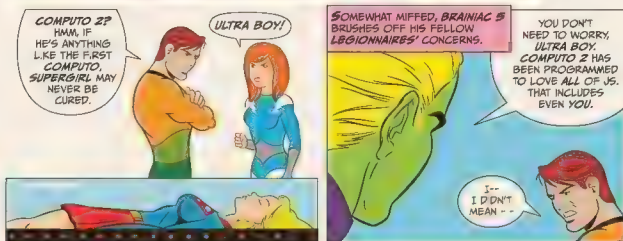
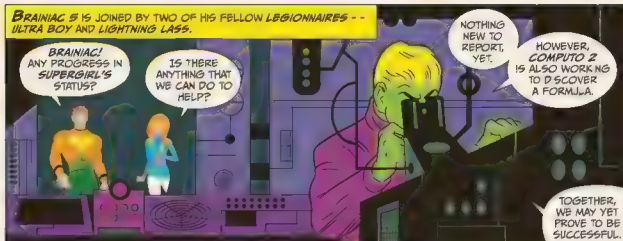
# TALES OF THE LEGION of SUPER-HEROES



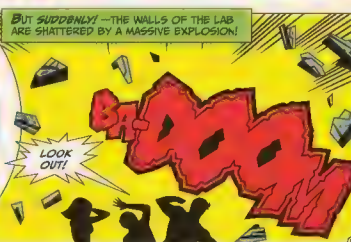
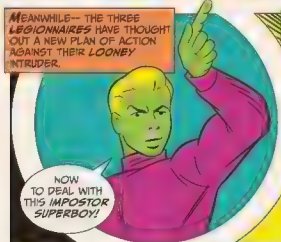
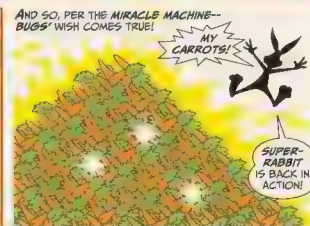
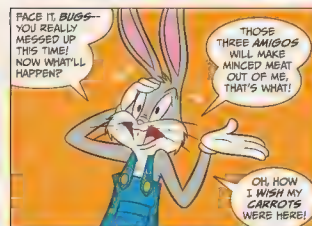
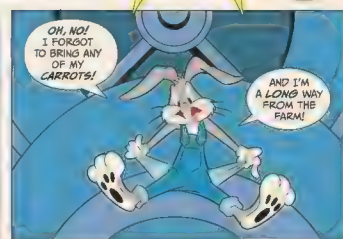
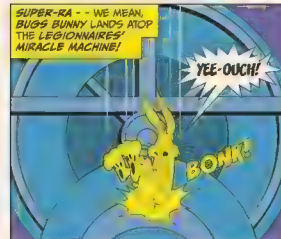
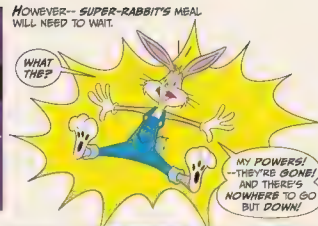
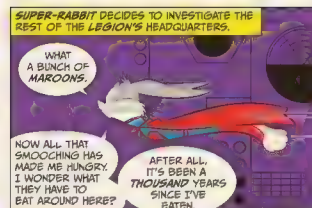
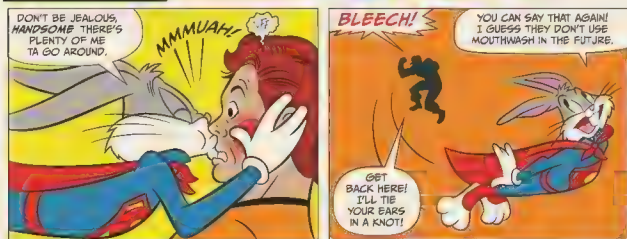
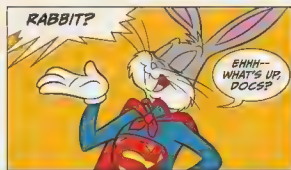
WELCOME TO THE 31<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY!  
WE BEGIN OUR TALE ON EARTH,  
WHERE WE FIND THE  
HEADQUARTERS FOR  
THE LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES!

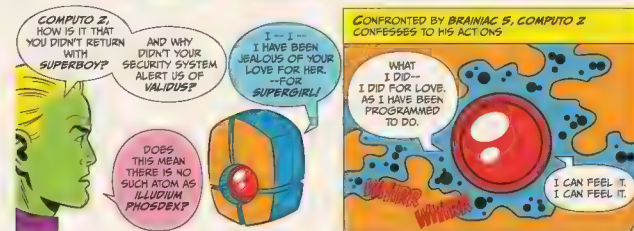
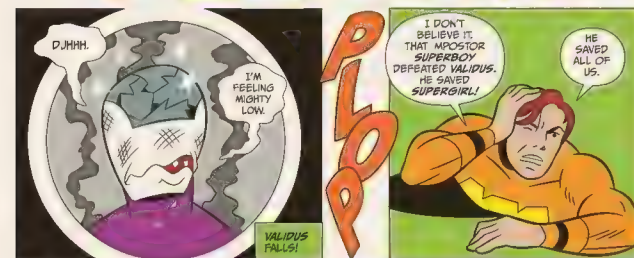
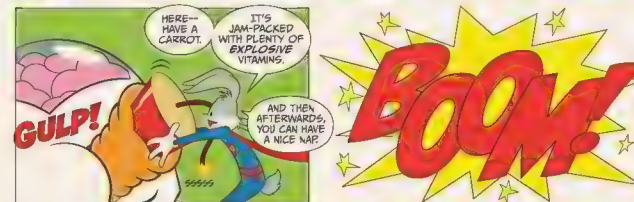
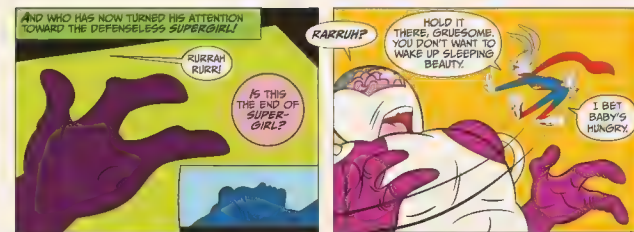
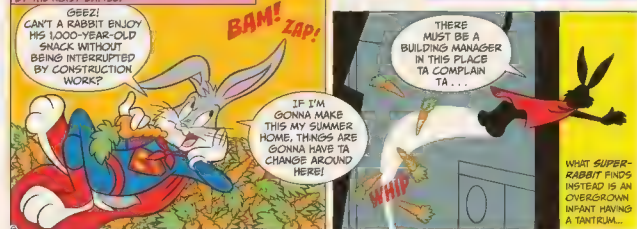
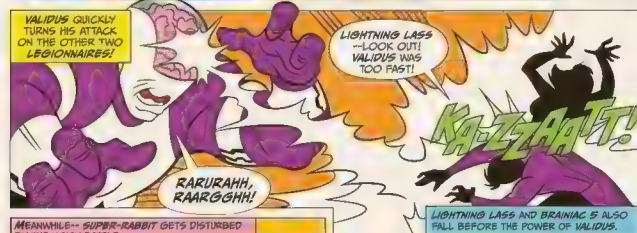
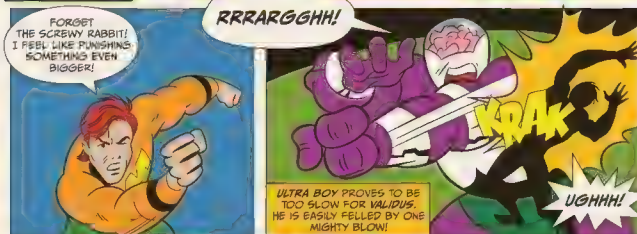
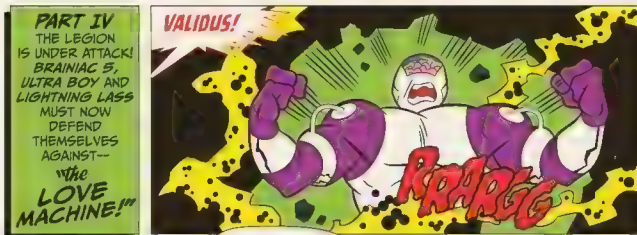
AND ALSO SUPERGIRL! --IN A COMA!  
SHE HAD BEEN LYING IN MEDICAL STASIS SINCE INFECTING  
HERSELF WITH THE INCURABLE RIGEL FEVER!  
IT HAD BEEN HER ONLY WAY TO DEFEAT MORDRU,  
THE IMMORTAL SORCERER!\*





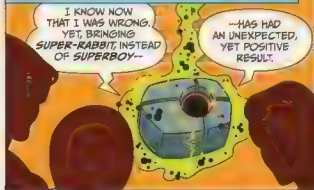








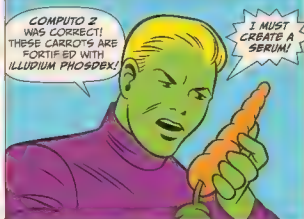
COMPUTO 2 BEGINS A MELTDOWN, BUT BEFORE HE LOSES HIS SELF-AWARENESS-- HE MAKES AN AMAZING REVELATION.



I KNOW NOW THAT I WAS WRONG, YET, BRINGING SUPER-RABBIT, INSTEAD OF SUPERBOY--

--HAS HAD AN UNEXPECTED, YET POSITIVE RESULT.

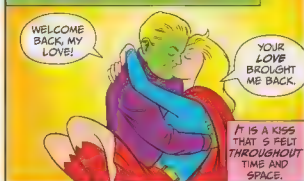
SOON, AFTER BRAINIAC 5 RUNS A FEW TESTS --



COMPUTO 2 WAS CORRECT! THESE CARROTS ARE FORTIFIED WITH ILLUDIUM PHOSDEX!

I MUST CREATE A SERUM!

BRAINIAC 5 AND SUPERGIRL EMBRACE. ONCE AGAIN, LOVE PROVES TO BE THE MOST POWERFUL EMOTION IN THE UNIVERSE.



WELCOME BACK, MY LOVE!

YOUR LOVE BROUGHT ME BACK.

IT IS A KISS THAT'S FELT THROUGHOUT TIME AND SPACE.

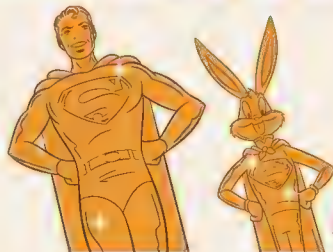
THE LEGIONNAIRES PUT ASIDE THEIR DIFFERENCES AND THANK THEIR NEW FURRY FRIEND



SNIFE!

WHAT CAN I SAY? I'M A ROMANTIC.

FOR HIS PART, SUPER-RABBIT IS MADE AN HONORARY MEMBER OF THE LEGION, AND IS AWARDED HIS OWN STATUE, RIGHT BESIDE HIS AND THE LEGION'S OWN INSPIRATION!



SO ENDS ANOTHER TALE (OR SHOULD WE SAY TAIL?) OF THE LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES!



THE END



THERE'S A NEW MARTIAN IN TOWN!



YOU'RE MAKING ME VERY ANGRY...

LITTLE HERO NAME CHANGES



MIDDLETON, COLORADO.

CIRCLES.

THERE IS AN ORDER TO THINGS... PATTERN... THAT GOVERNS OUR ACTIONS.

WE RETURN TO OUR POINT OF ORIGIN BY OUR HOME, BUT THIS IS NOT AINE.

I AM JOHN JONES, THE MARTIAN MANAGER. I CAN'T FIGHT, OR SO I THOUGHT.

AN UNLIKELY DISTRESS CALL A TELEPATHIC PONY- MY OWN LANGUAGES BROUGHT ME HERE.

MY PEOPLE ARE LONG DEAD, BUT NO LONGER IN EXISTENCE, NO MATTER HOW IMPOSSIBLE MAY SEEM.

A MESSAGE WAS SENT TO THE EARTH THAT ASSIGNED THE MESSAGE TO BE SENT TO THE EARTH, BUT NO LONGER IN EXISTENCE, NO MATTER HOW IMPOSSIBLE MAY SEEM.

SO HERE I STAND, HERE AGAIN.



# BEST INTENTIONS

STEVE ORLANDO AND FRANK J. BARBIERE / WRITERS

AARON LOPESTI / PENCILLER AND COVER ARTIST

JEROME MOORE / INKER HI-PI / COLOR

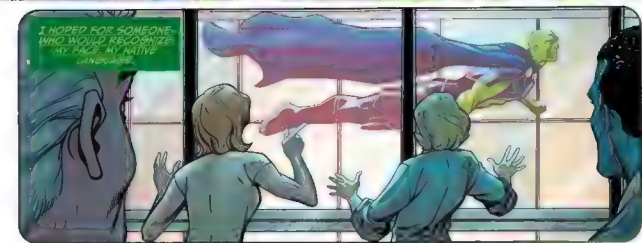
CARLOS M. MANGUAL / LETTERING

STEPHEN BASTEFANO / VARIANT COVER

SPECIAL THANKS TO GREGORY BENSON

MICHAEL McCAUSTON / ASSISTANT EDITOR

MARIE JAVINS / GROUP EDITOR

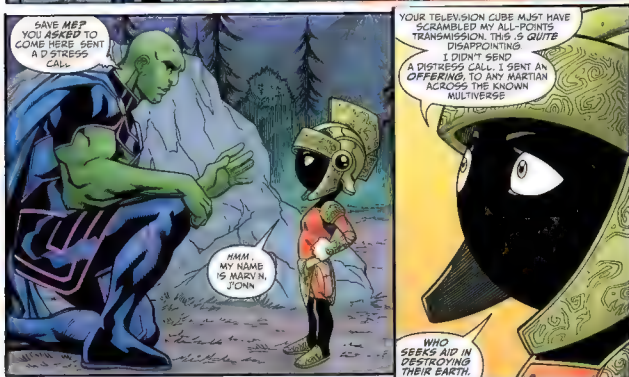


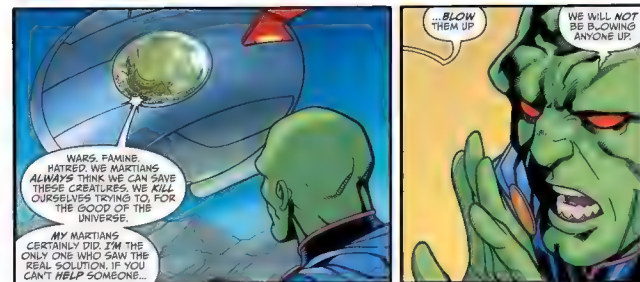
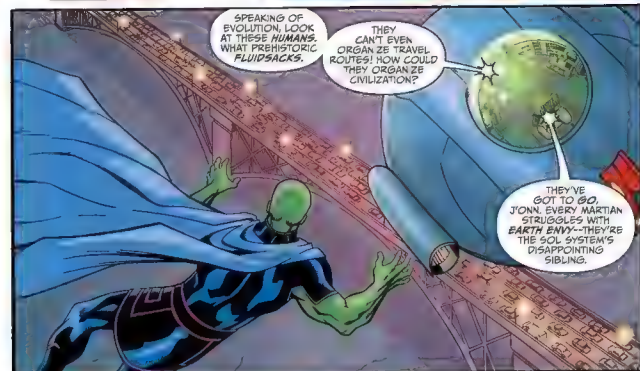
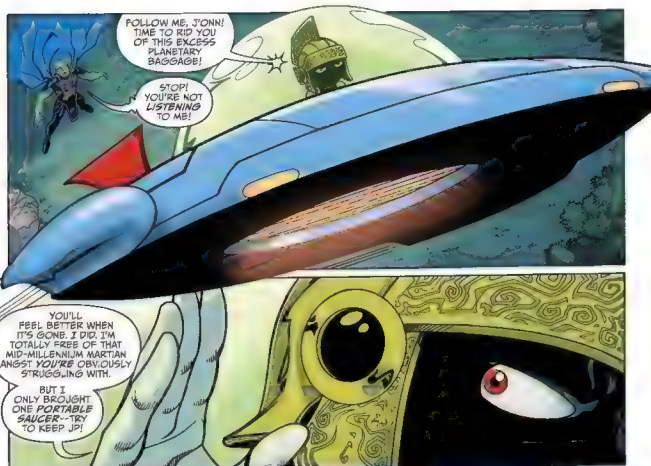


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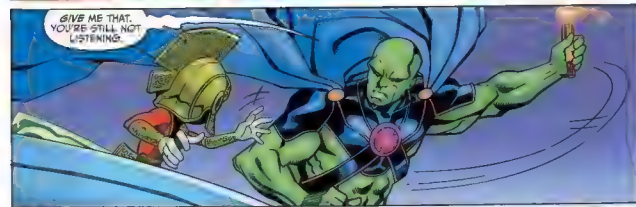






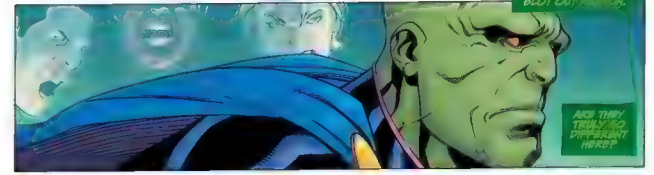
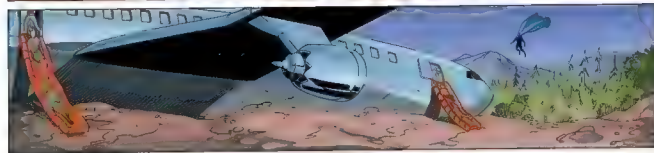
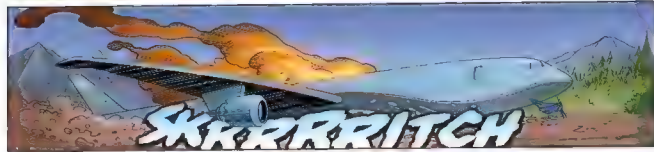
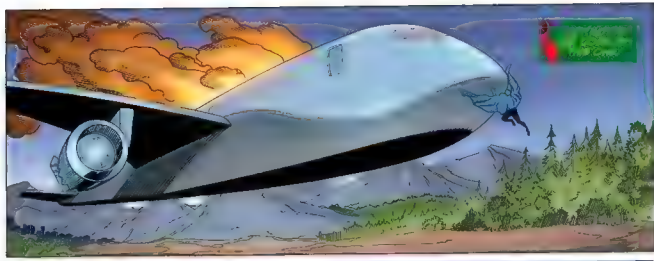


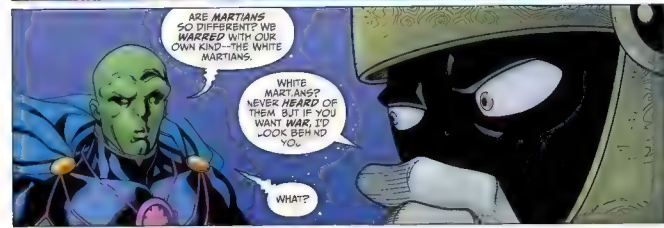
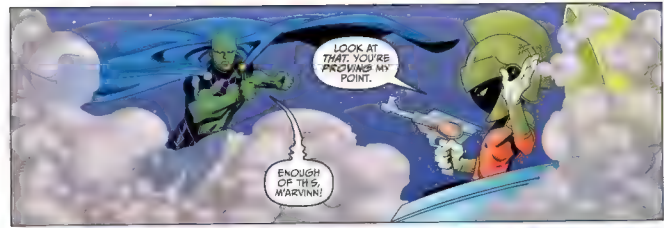
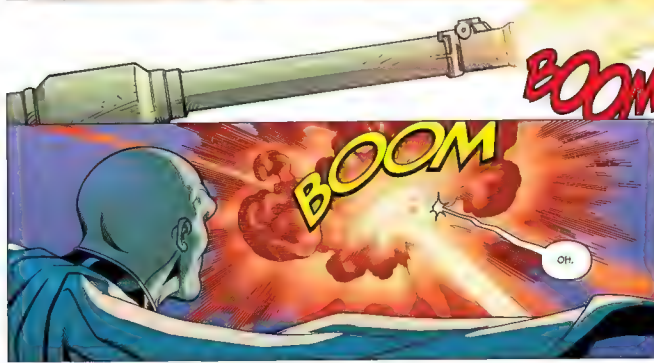
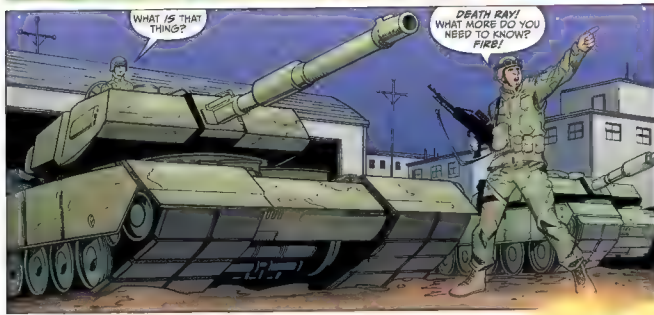
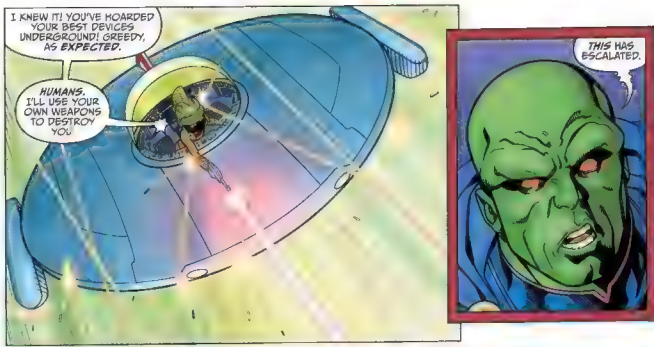




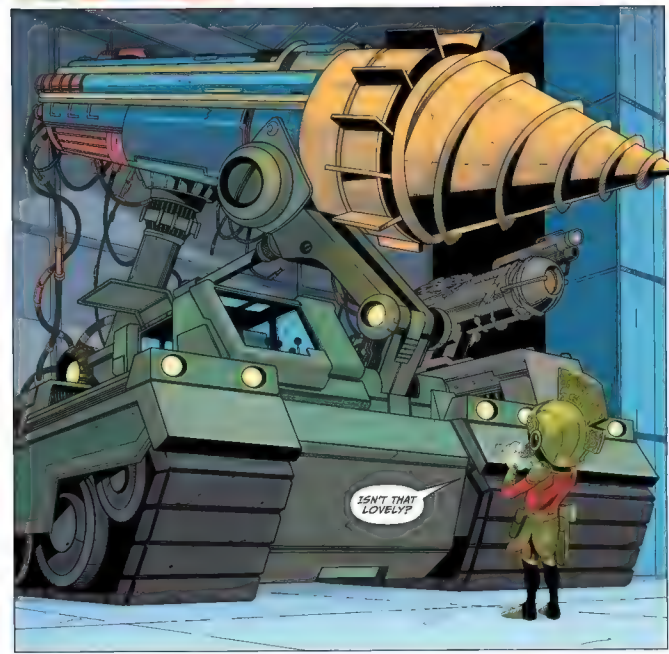
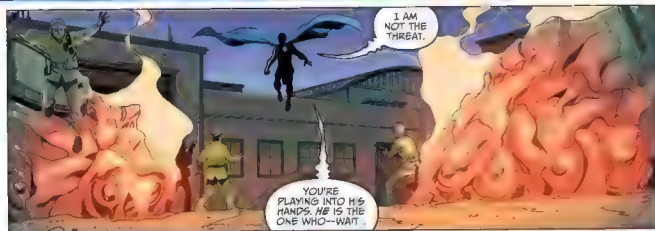






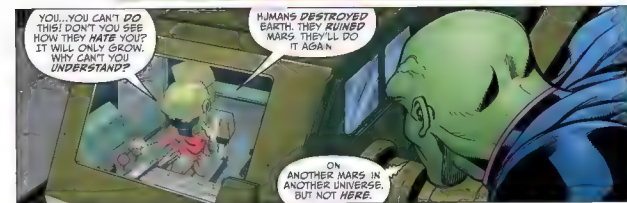
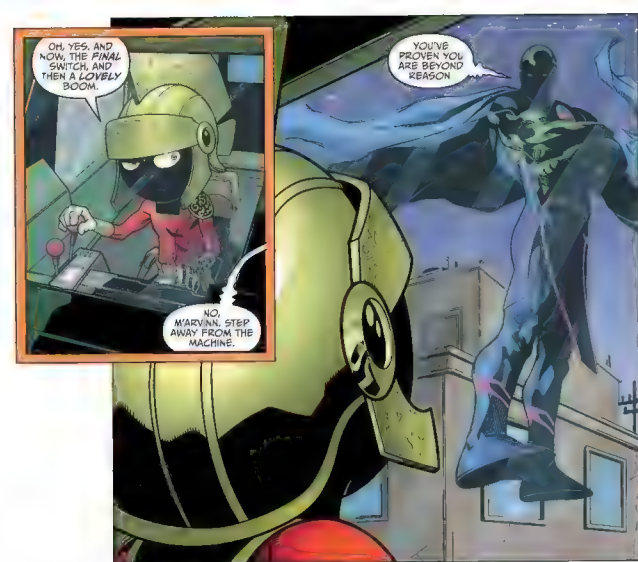










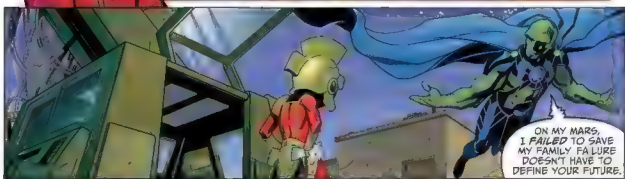




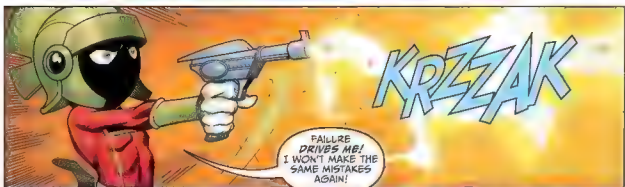
I WON'T STOP YOUN, I CARE ABOUT YOU AND EVERY SURVIVING MARTIAN ACROSS THE MULTIVERSE.

I TRIED TO TELL MY PEOPLE NOT TO BOTHER WITH HUMANITY. THAT THEIR WAYS WOULD INFECT US. DESTROY US. I FAILED TO CONVINCE THEM.

A CHANCE TO SAVE ANOTHER MARTIAN, ANYWHERE, IS RARE.



ON MY MARS, I FAILED TO SAVE MY FAMILY. FAILURE DOESN'T HAVE TO DEFINE YOUR FUTURE.



FAILURE DRIVES ME! I WON'T MAKE THE SAME MISTAKES AGAIN!



WHEN YOU COME TO IT WILL ALL BE OVER, MY FRIEND!

MARVINN--



SINCE I WAS RESENTED TO MARTIN, TO RESPECT THIS PEAKED ME.

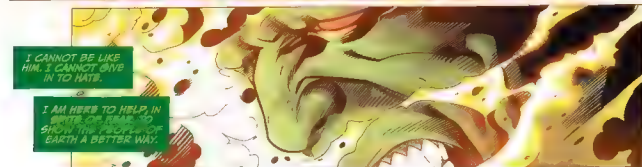
I HOPED THEY WOULD SEE ME AS AN ALLY IN THE BUCKING OF NEW THING OVERCOME THAT FEAR.

MARVINN SAYS THAT DAY WILL NEVER COME.



THAT THEIR CYNICISM, THEIR CRUELTY WILL PULL ME DOWN INTO DESOLATION.

HIS CERTAINTY IS



I CANNOT BE LIKE HIM. I CANNOT LIVE IN TO HATE.

I AM HERE TO HELP, IN ORDER OF EARTH, TO SHOW THE PEOPLE OF EARTH A BETTER WAY.

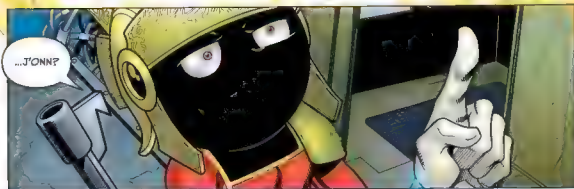




WARVINN  
SEES THAT.

I CANNOT DEFEAT  
HIM BY FORCE. HIS  
TECHNOLOGY IS  
FAR TOO VAST.

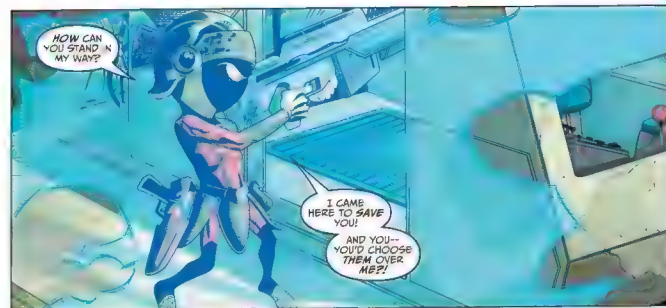
I HAVE NO  
CHOICE BUT TO  
GIVE HIM WHAT  
HE WANTS.



...JONN?



EVEN IF IT  
KILLS ME.



HOW CAN  
YOU STAND IN  
MY WAY?

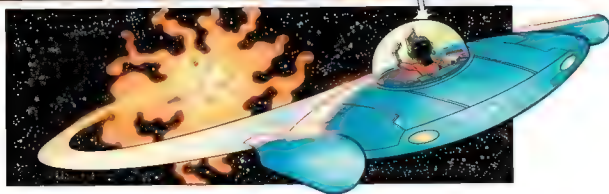
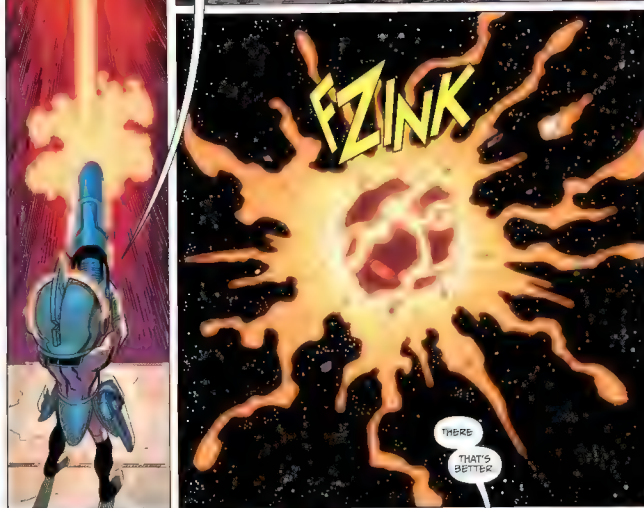
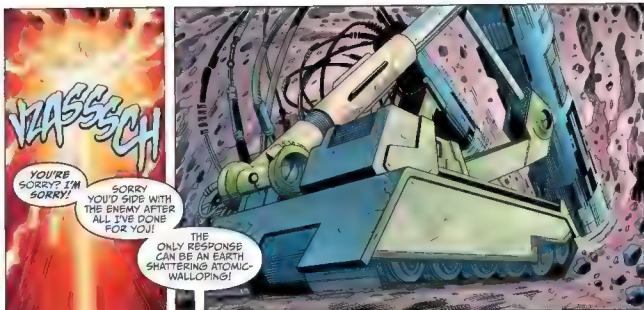
I CAME  
HERE TO SAVE  
YOU!

AND YOU--  
YOU'D CHOOSE  
THEM OVER  
ME?

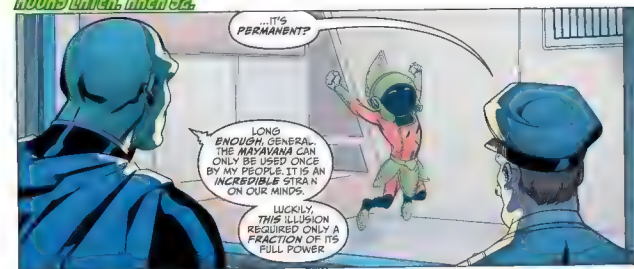


YOU MADE  
ME CHOOSE,  
WARVINN.

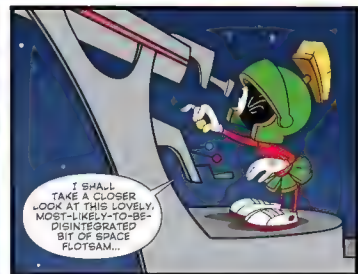
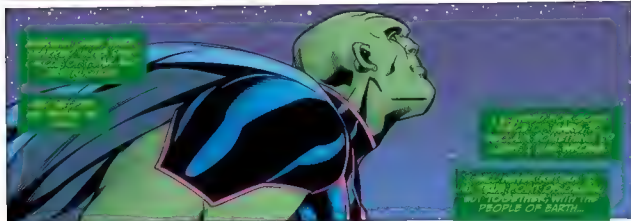
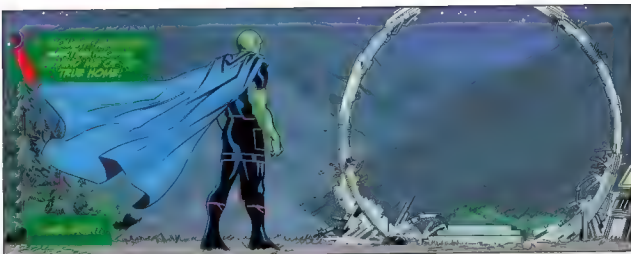
I'M  
SORRY.

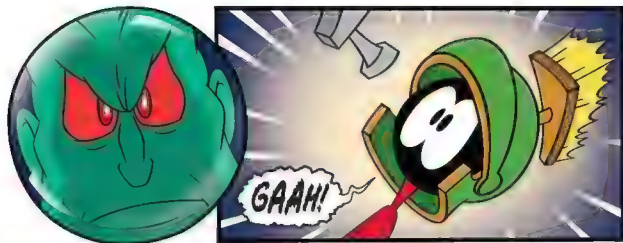


HOURS LATER, AREA 52.

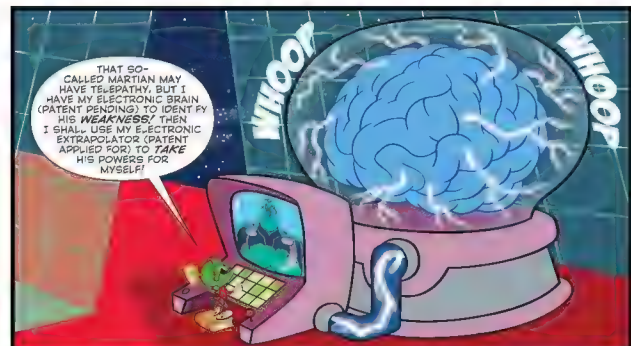
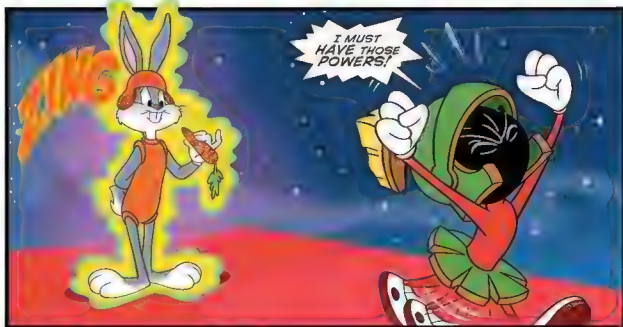












**SOON!**

I NEED COOKIES AND YOU BRING THEM SILENTLY!

BUT MR. SPACEMAN, I'M A ROCKET RANGER! OUR SCOUTING ORGANIZATION HAS SIX TONS OF CHOCOS--

--STORED IN AN ORBITING SPACE STATION! BUYING THE COOKIES WILL EARN ME BILLIONS AND BILLIONS OF BADGES--  
**TA HAYE!**

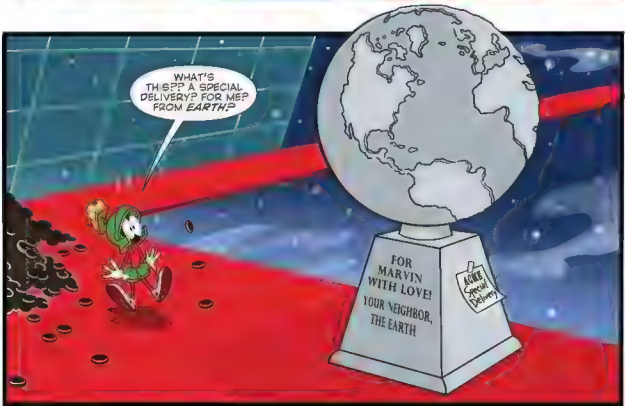
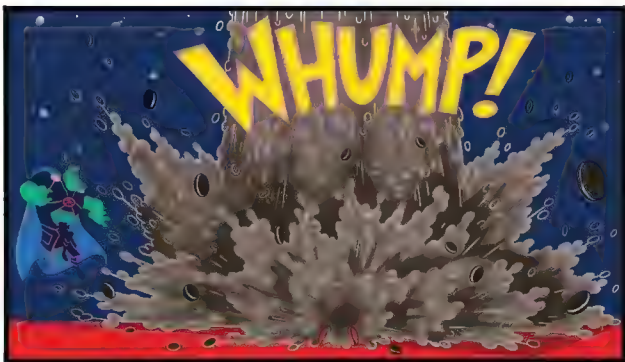
**SIX TONS OF COOKIES LATER!**

OH, J'ONNY! HERE'S A TASTY PEACE OFFERING

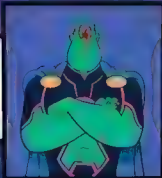
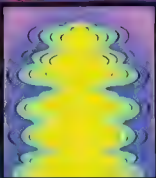
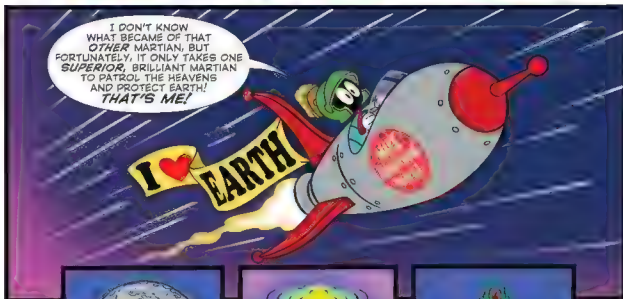
OOOH-- A CHOCO!

Free Choco

RELEASE THE COOKIES!











THE PATHS MUST  
CROSS IF I AM TO AVOID  
A CATASTROPHE

HRRRRRRRRRRRRRRR

HELLO  
AGAIN  
REMEMBER  
ME?

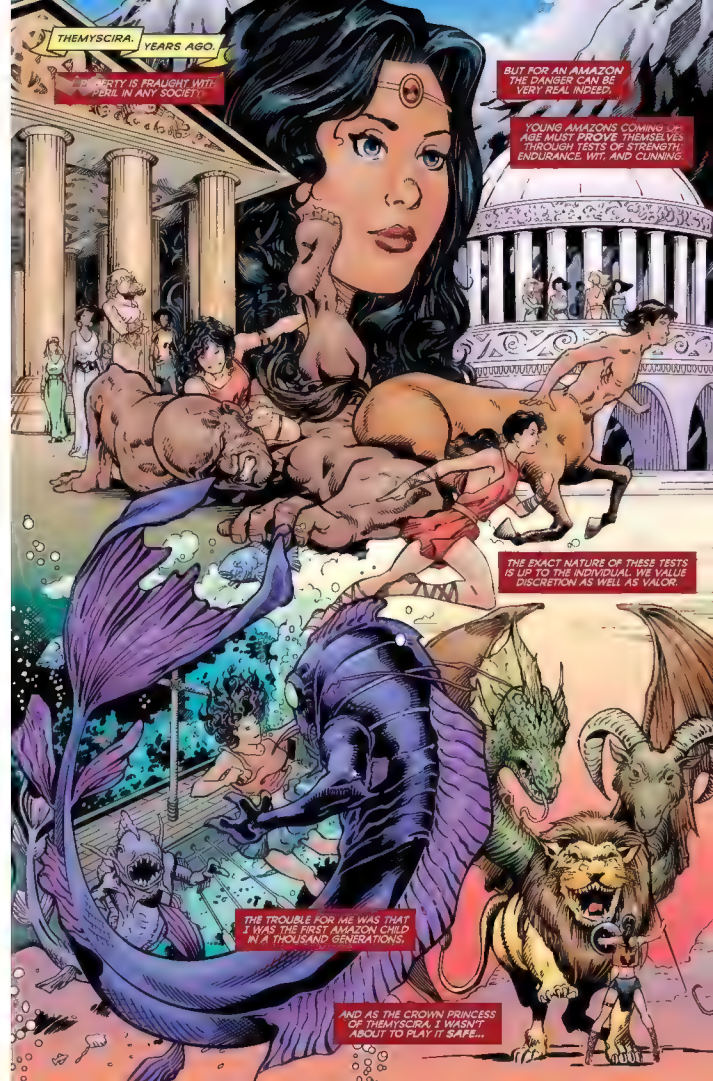
BECAUSE  
I SURE  
REMEMBER  
YOU...

TONY BEDARD  
WRITER  
BARRY KITSON  
PENCILLER  
JOHN FLOYD INNER  
LOVERN MONZERSHI  
COLORIST  
DAVE SHARPE  
LETTERER

JIM LEE  
COVER  
ALEX SINCLAIR  
COVER COLORS  
GYRON VAN VLAUGHE  
VARIANT COVER  
LARRIE STRACHAN  
VARIANT COVER COLORS

MICHAEL McALISTER  
ASSISTANT EDITOR  
MARIE JAVINS  
GROUP EDITOR  
JOEY CAVALIERI  
INVISIBLE JET

THE  
Devil  
you  
KNOW



THEMYSCLRA... YEARS AGO

HERTY IS FRAUGHT WITH  
PERIL IN ANY SOCIETY

BUT FOR AN AMAZON  
THE PRINCE CAN BE  
VERY REAL INDEED

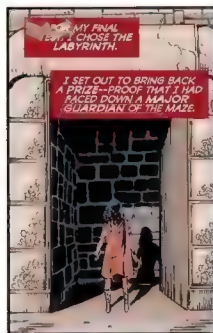
YOUNG AMAZONS COMING-OF-AGE  
MUST PROVE THEMSELVES  
THROUGH TESTS OF STRENGTH,  
ENDURANCE, WIT, AND CUNNING

THE EXACT NATURE OF THESE TESTS  
IS UP TO THE INDIVIDUAL. WE VALUE  
DISCRETION AS WELL AS VALOR.

THE TROUBLE FOR ME WAS THAT  
I WAS THE FIRST AMAZON CHILD  
IN A THOUSAND GENERATIONS.

AND AS THE CROWN PRINCESS  
OF THEMYSCLRA, I WASN'T  
ABOUT TO PLAY IT SAFE...



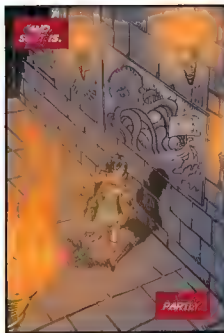


MY FINAL  
TEST I CHOSE THE  
LABYRINTH.

I SET OUT TO BRING BACK  
A PRIZE—PROOF THAT I HAD  
MAID DOWN A MAJOR  
GUARDIAN OF THE MAZE.

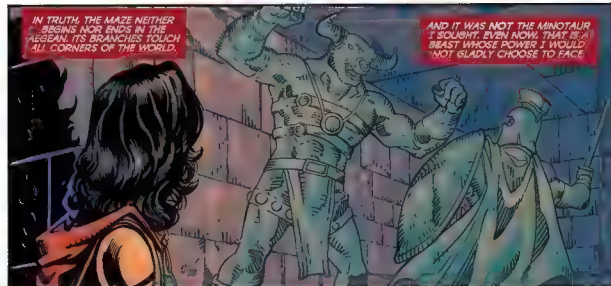


YES, I KNOW. EVERYONE  
THINKS THE LABYRINTH IS  
LOCATED ON CRETE  
WHERE THESEUS BATTLED  
THE MINOTAUR.



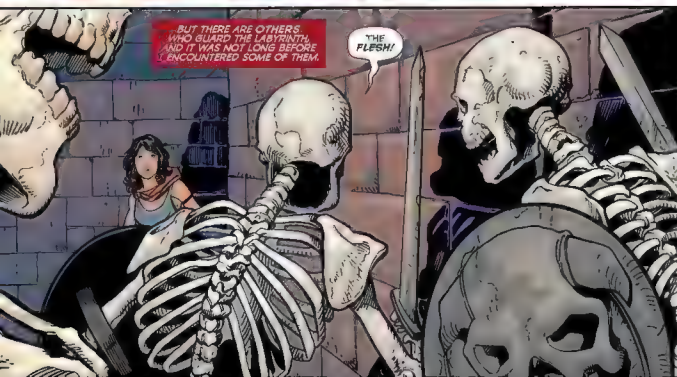
THE  
FLESH!

PARTLY



IN TRUTH, THE MAZE NEITHER  
BEGINS NOR ENDS IN THE  
ALLEGED ITS BRANCHES TOUCH  
ALL CORNERS OF THE WORLD.

AND IT WAS NOT THE MINOTAUR  
I SOUGHT. EVEN NOW, THAT IS  
BEAST WHOSE POWER I WOULD  
NOT GLADLY CHOOSE TO FACE.



BUT THERE ARE OTHERS  
WHO GUARD THE LABYRINTH,  
AND IT WAS NOT LONG BEFORE  
I ENCOUNTERED SOME OF THEM.

THE  
FLESH!

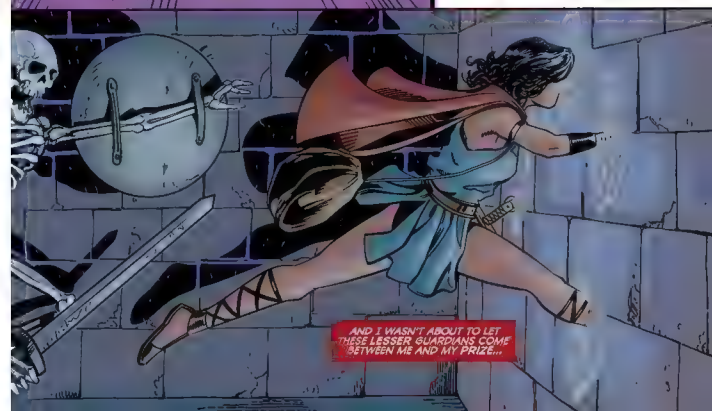


THE  
FLESH!  
THE  
FLESH!

SCATTERED SECTIONS  
OF THE WORLD-MAZE ARE  
LINKED BY PORTALS THAT  
NOT EVEN OLD  
KING MINOS KNEW ABOUT.

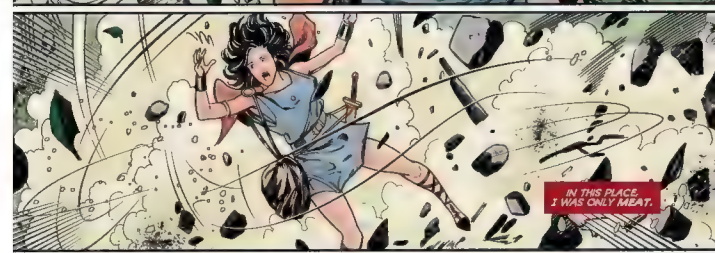
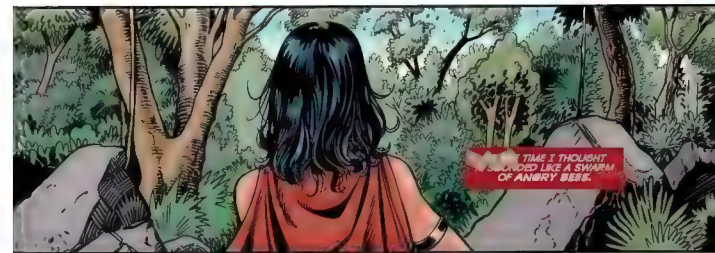
BUT  
I DO.

MOTHER MADE  
SURE MY STUDIES  
COVERED  
EVERYTHING.

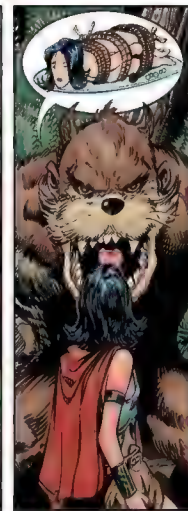
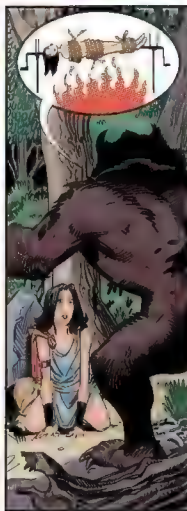


AND I WASN'T ABOUT TO LET  
THESE LESSER GUARDIANS COME  
BETWEEN ME AND MY PRIZE...

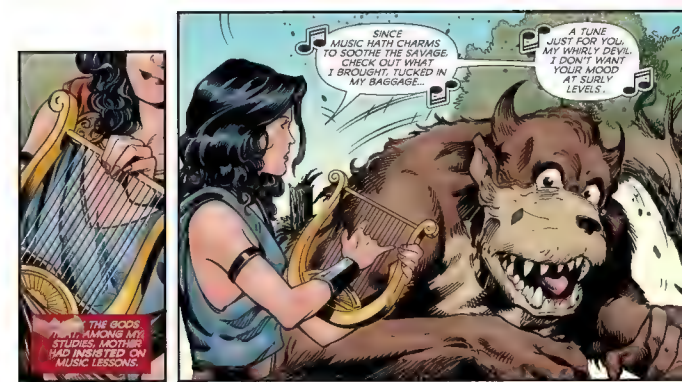




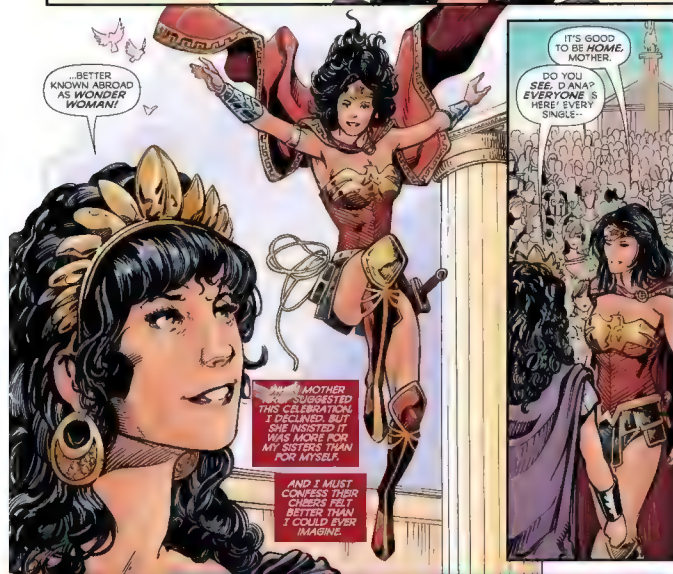




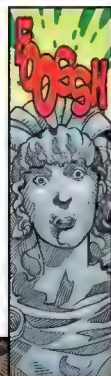
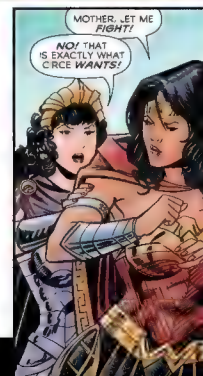
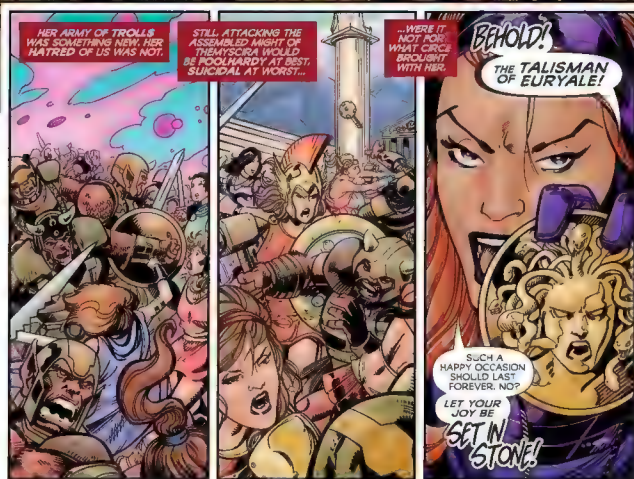
















WE WHO  
HAS NO MERCY.

THERE  
MUCH  
BETTER

HA!  
AMAZONS NOT  
SO PRETTY  
NOW!

EVEN UGLIER  
ONCE WE TURN  
THEM TO  
GRAVEL!

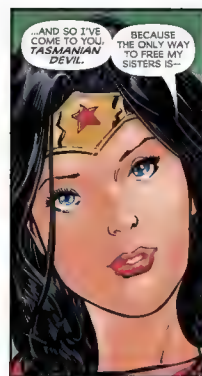
I THINK  
NOT. I WANT  
THEM ALL  
INTACT.

CKRACK



AT LEAST  
UNTIL YOU LOCATE  
THEIR PRINCESS, WHO  
SURELY STANDS  
SOMEWHERE  
AMONG THEM

SEARCH  
THE ISLAND!  
BRING ME  
WONDER WOMAN!



...AND SO I'VE  
COME TO YOU,  
TASMANIAN  
DEVIL.

BECAUSE  
THE ONLY WAY  
TO FREE MY  
SISTERS IS--



EXACTLY!  
THE MINOTAUR'S  
AMULET.

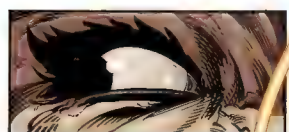
BUT IT  
COULD TAKE ME  
WEEKS TO FIND  
THE MINOTAUR.  
THE LABYRINTH IS  
SIMPLY TOO  
BIG.

YOU, ON THE  
OTHER HAND, CAN  
SENSE HIM, RIGHT?  
IT'S SAID THERE'S  
A CONNECTION  
BETWEEN YOU  
GREATER  
GUARDIANS...



I KNOW.  
I KNOW. WHY  
SHOULD YOU HELP  
ME? WHAT'S IN IT  
FOR YOU?

WELL,  
REMEMBER THAT  
FEAST I  
PROMISED...



RIGHT. HOW  
DO YOU KNOW  
I'M NOT LYING  
AGAIN?

BECAUSE THE  
GOLDEN PERFECT  
WON'T ALLOW ME  
TO LIE, NOT WHILE IT'S  
IN MY GRASP.

I SWEAR  
TO YOU, A FEAST  
BEYOND IMAGINING  
SHALL BE YOURS.

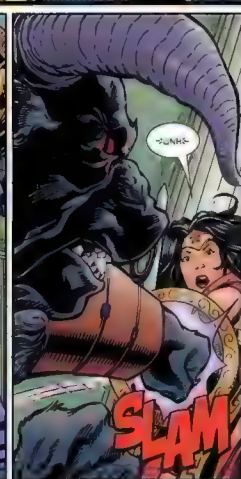
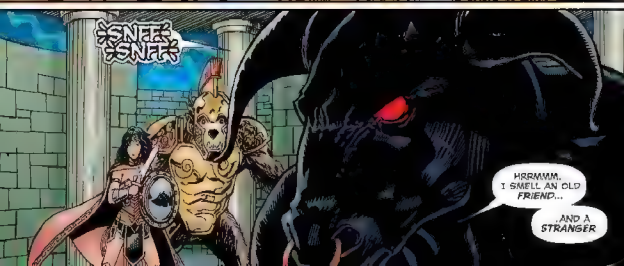
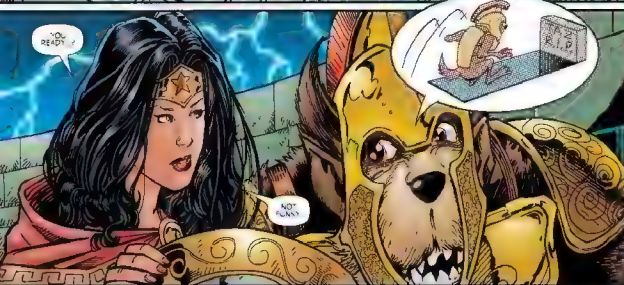
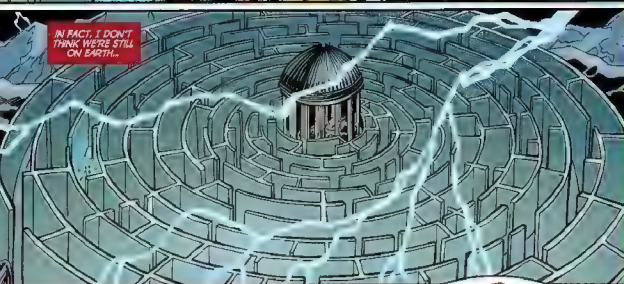
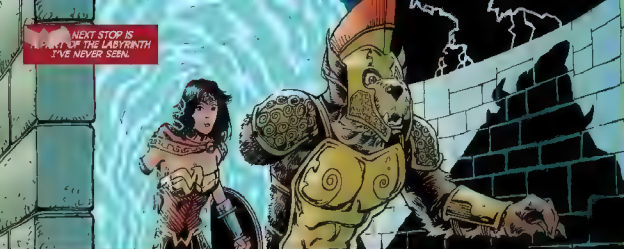
SO, HOW  
ABOUT IT? WILL YOU  
GUIDE ME TO THE  
MINOTAUR...?



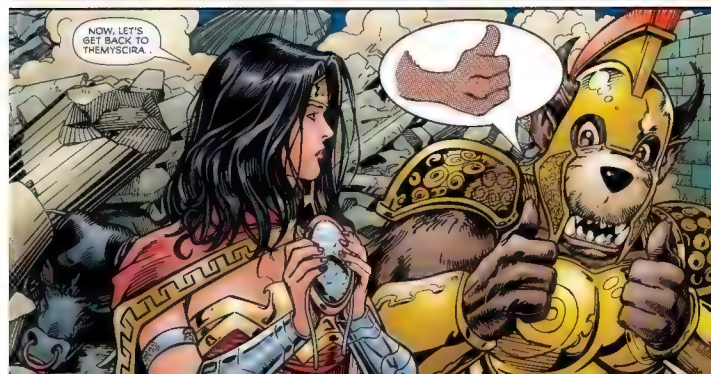
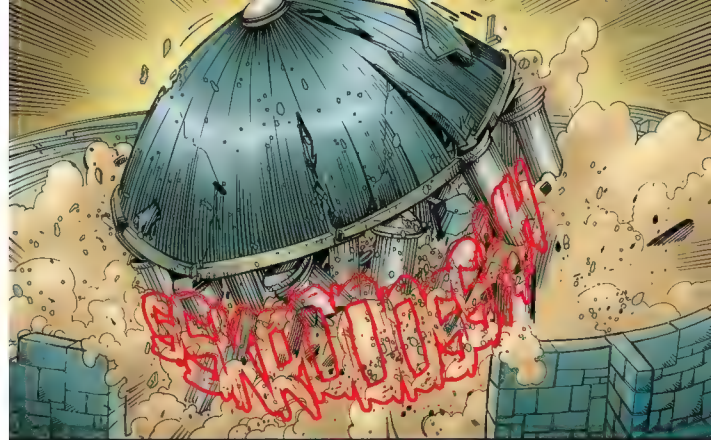
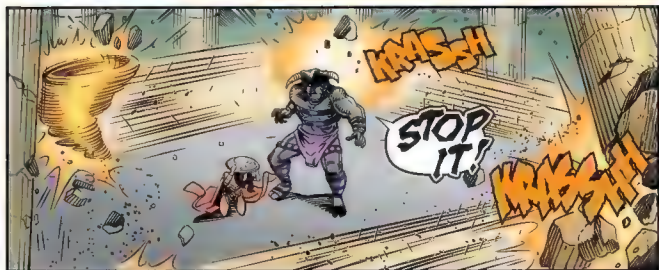
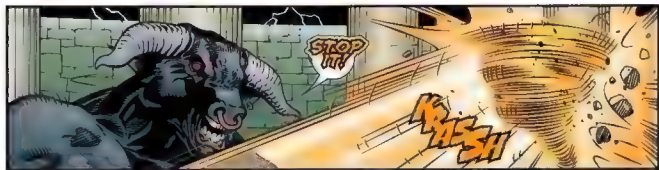
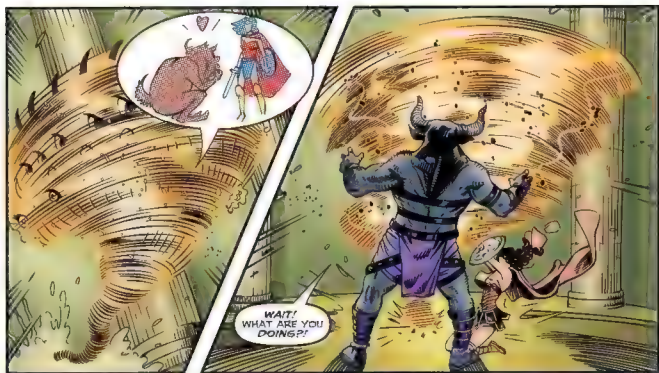




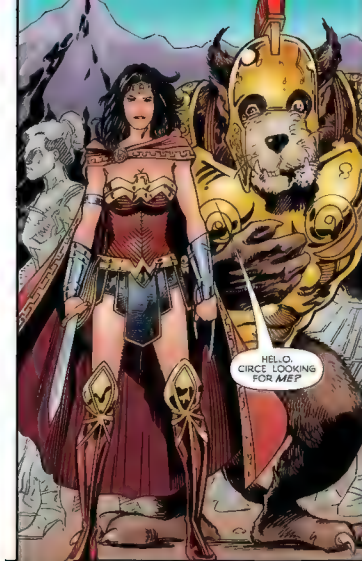
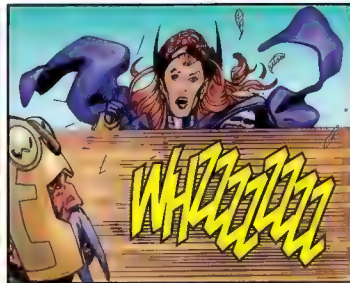
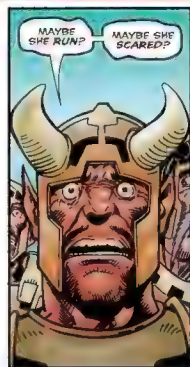








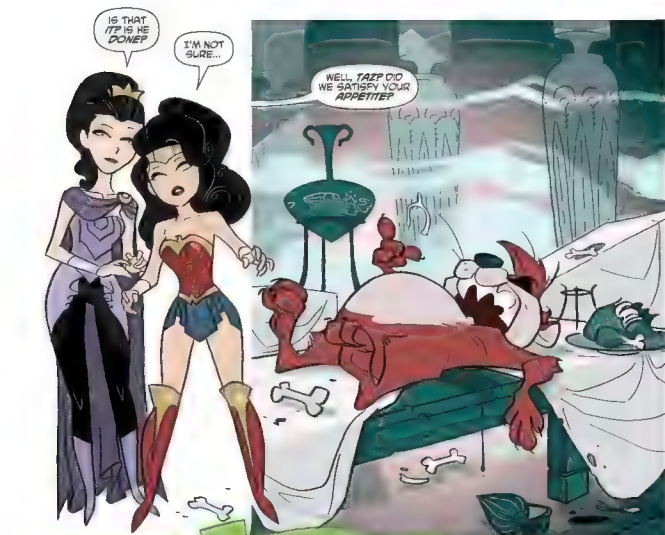
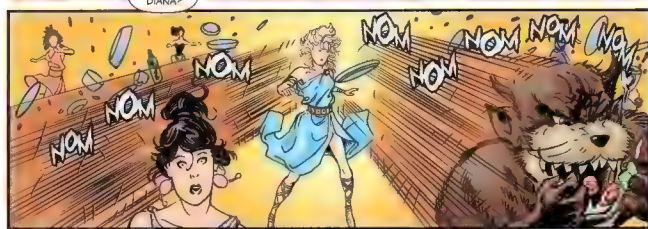




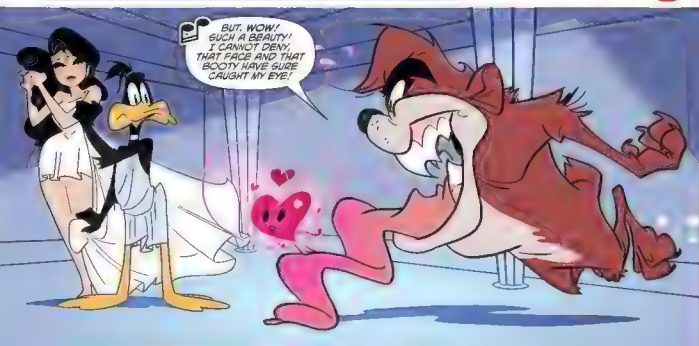
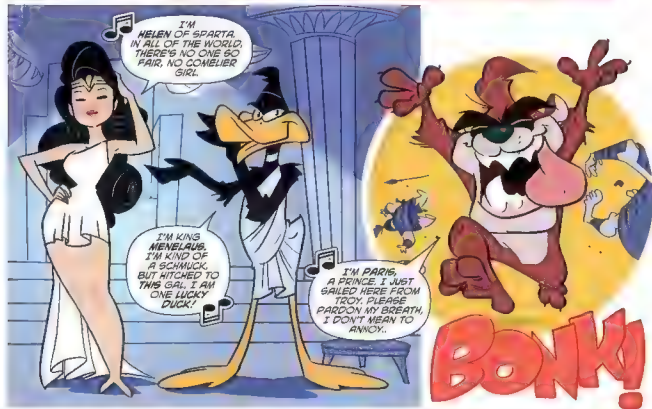
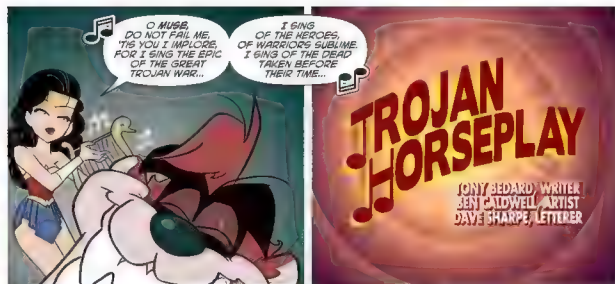


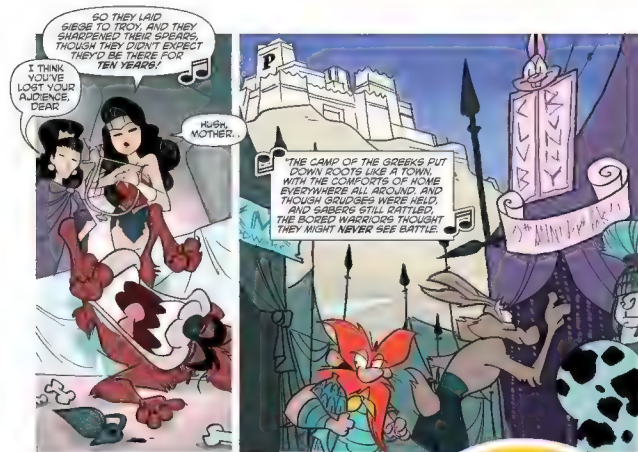
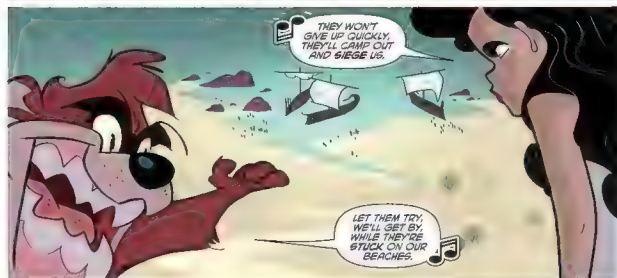








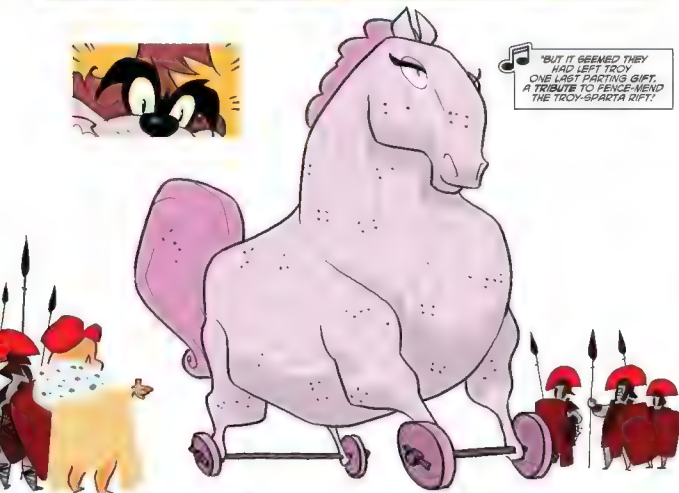








"BUT IT SEEMED THEY HAD LEFT TROY ONE LAST PARTING GIFT, A TRIBUTE TO FENCE-MEND THE TROY-SPARTA RIFT!"





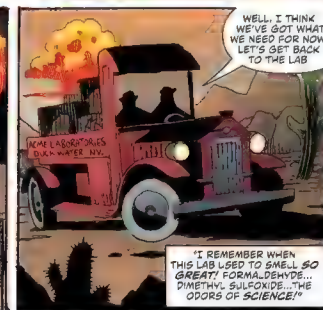
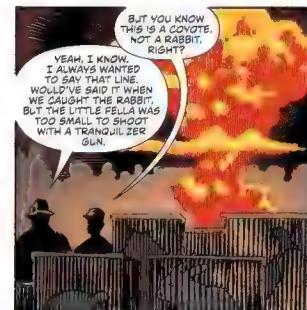
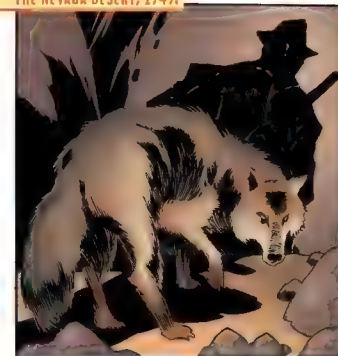
*The End!*



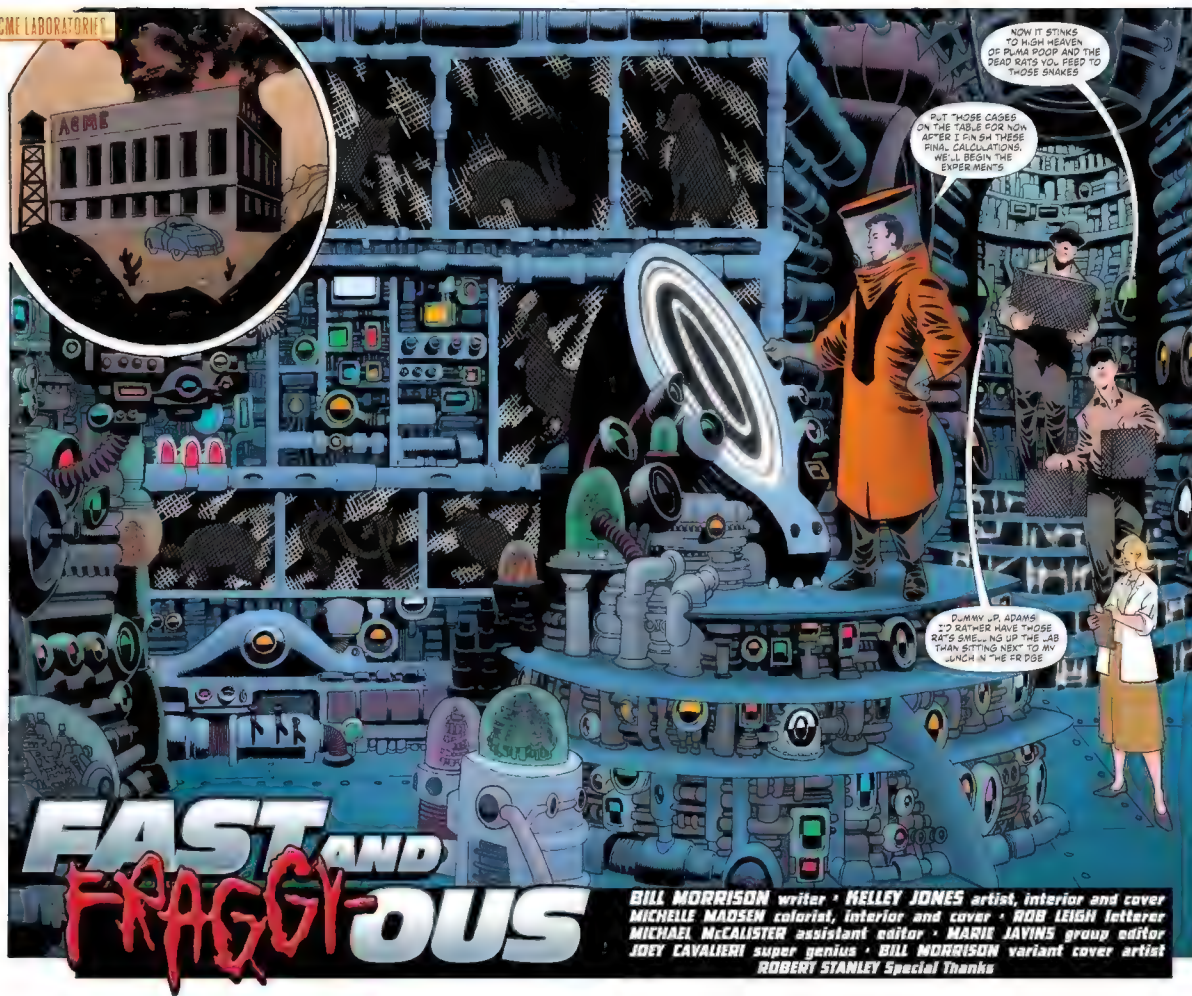




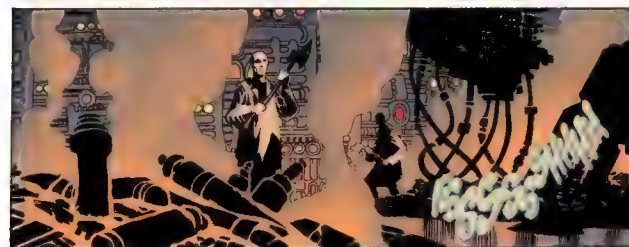
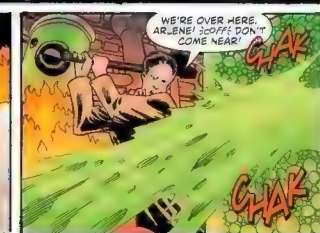
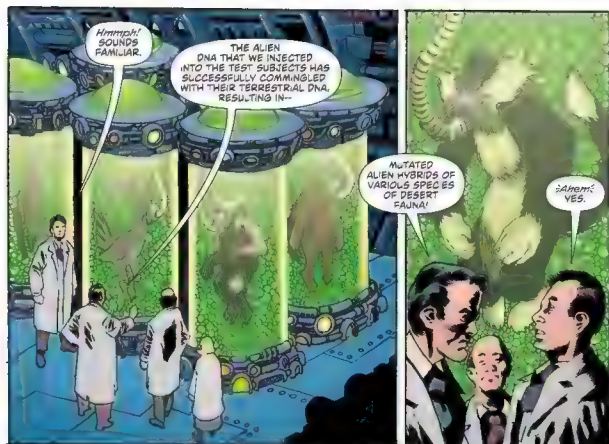
# THE NEVADA DESERT, 1949.



ACME LABORATORIES







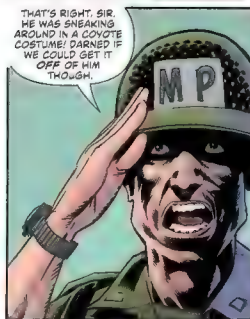
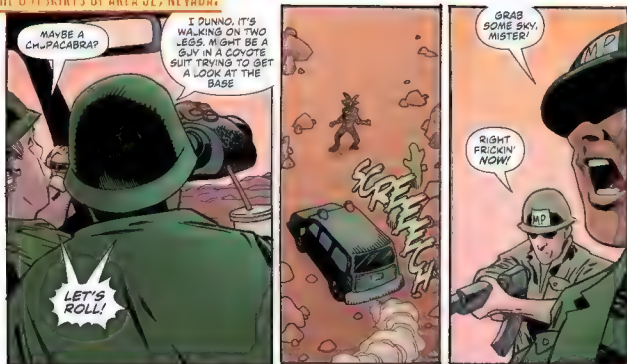






# A DINER ON DYSPEPSIA-9, PRESENT DAY









BUT AFTER ALL THIS TIME, I'D LOST HOPE!

THE DNA CHECKS OUT! THIS IS THE MUTATED COYOTE FROM THE 1949 ACME PROJECT! NOT AN OFFSPRING, THE ACTUAL COYOTE!



AND IF HE'S SURVIVED ALL THESE DECADES, MAYBE OTHERS ARE STILL OUT THERE!



CLICK

OKAY, LET'S SCHEDULE A BATTERY OF TESTS AND THEN PICK IT UP IN THE MORNING



ZZZZZ

GRRR

ZZZZZ



PSSE! HEY, RALPH. YOU MIND IF I CALL YOU RALPH?

RALPH? HEY, WAKE UP!



HEY THERE, MY NAME'S SAM. I USED TO BE A SHEEP DOG. YOU REMIND ME OF A WOLF. I USED TO KNOW, RALPH WAS HIS NAME. WE USED TO SORT OF WORK TOGETHER. LISTEN, I'M HERE TO HELP YOU.

# THE PLOOY 'N' PUKE INN, DOOLLY-7.



AW, FETAL'S GIZZ. IT'S LATE! THIS CHUMP AIN'T GONNA FRAS HIMSELF JUST ONE MORE BEER AND I'M OUTTA HERE.

YOU'RE REALY GONNA JUST THE GUY IN THAT PHOTO YOU SHOWED ME?



YEAH, WHAT'S IT TO YOU, REEK?

NOTHIN', JUST... GOOD LUCK, PAUL YOU'RE GONNA NEED IT! HE'S UNBEATABLE!



AND EVEN IF YOU GET LUCKY, THAT GUY'S GOT POWERFUL FRIENDS. THEY'LL HUNT YOU DOWN AND HOSE YOU FOR SURE!

YOU THINK THE SCOURGE O' THE COSMOS DIDN'T DO HIS HOMEWORK? I KNOW ALL ABOUT HIM AND HIS PALS.



...EMME ASK YOU SOMETHIN'...

PIP  
PIP  
PIP

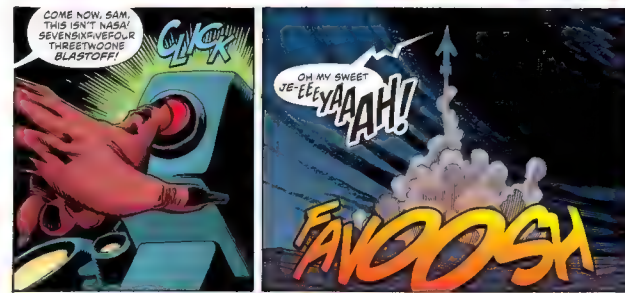


AAAAH!

DO I LOOK WORRIED?

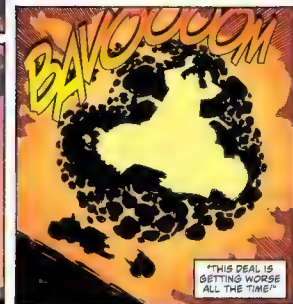
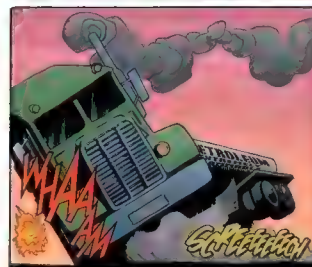
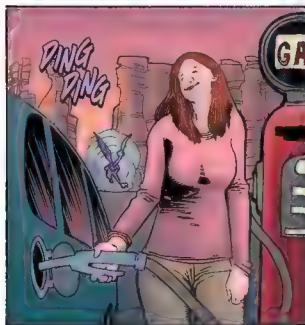




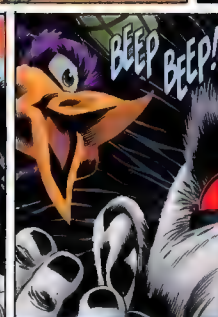
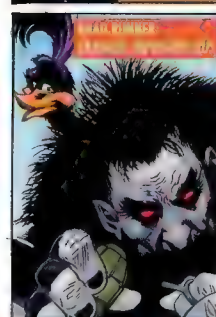






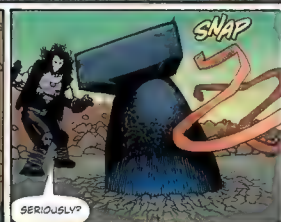
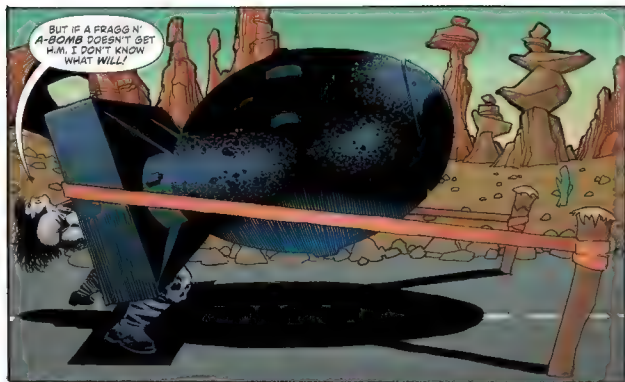


"THIS DEAL IS GETTING WORSE ALL THE TIME"

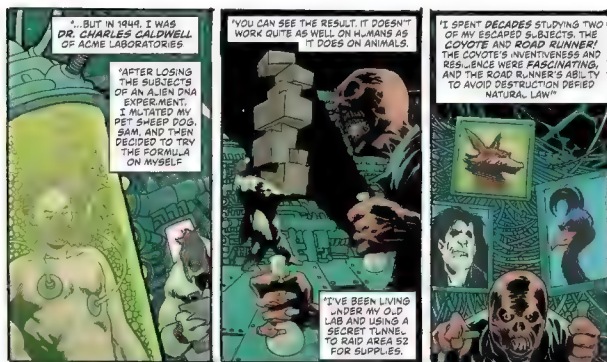


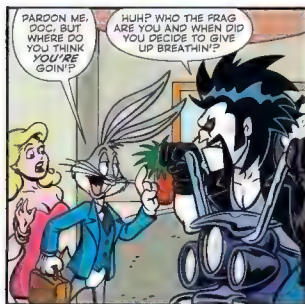








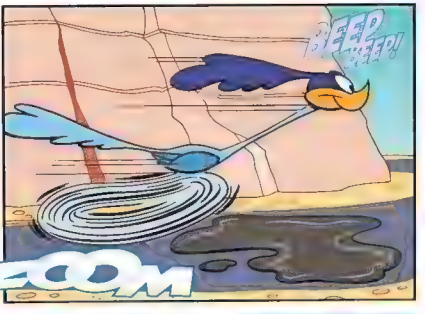


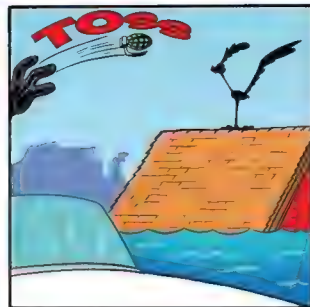
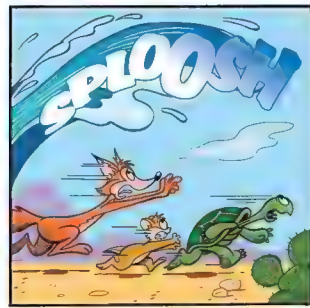
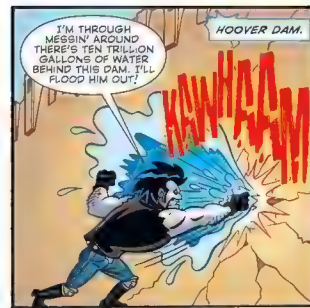




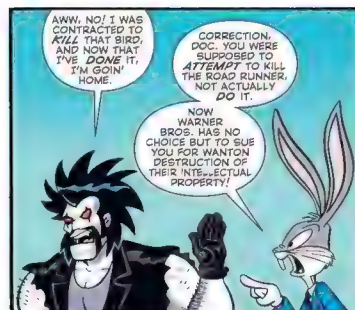
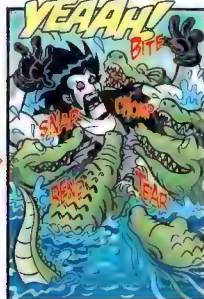
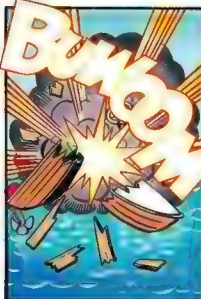
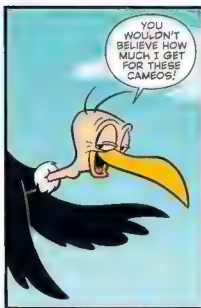
I WORKED MY CLOWN-WHITE REUBEN OFF IN THAT LAST STORY, SO I'LL BE FRAGGED IF I'M PUTTIN' MORE WORK THAN NECESSARY INTO THIS ONE

I SAW THESE ROCKET SKATES IN AN OLD CARTOON, AND AS FAR AS I CAN REMEMBER, THEY WORKED OUT PREETTY GOOD FOR THE FLEABAG WHAT WAS WEARIN' 'EM!









THE END



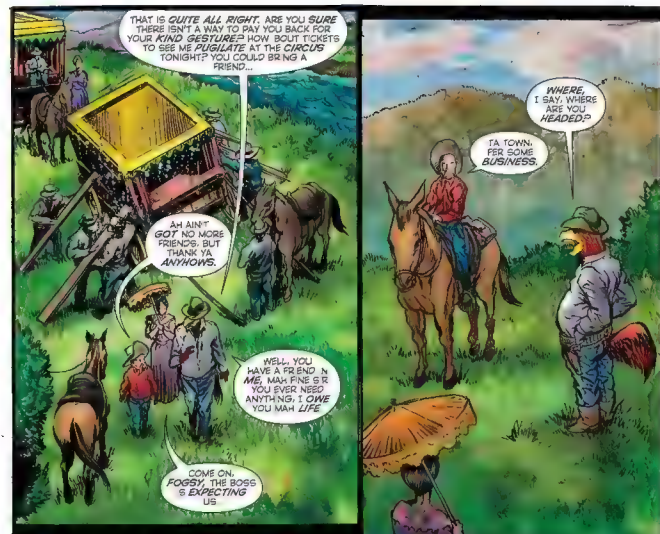














IT WAS SAID HE  
KILLED MORE  
MEN THAN HELL  
HAD SOULS

HE WAS A HERO  
TO SOME, A VILLAIN  
TO OTHERS, AND  
WHEREVER HE RODE,  
PEOPLE SAID HIS  
NAME IN WHISPERS



HE HAD NO FRIENDS,  
THIS JONAH HEX,  
BUT HE DID HAVE  
TWO COMPANIONS.

A TURTLE

ONE WAS  
DEATH ITSELF

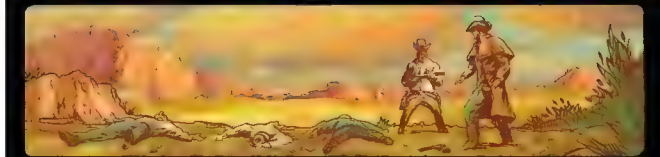
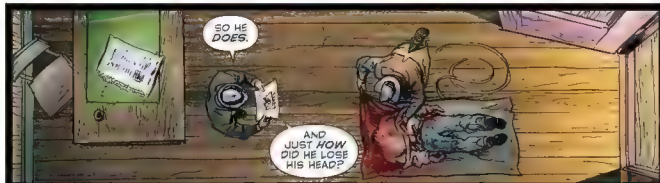
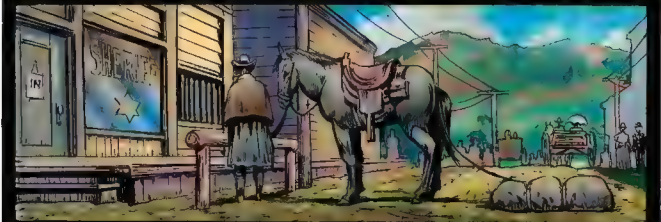
AS  
I LIVE AN  
BREATHE

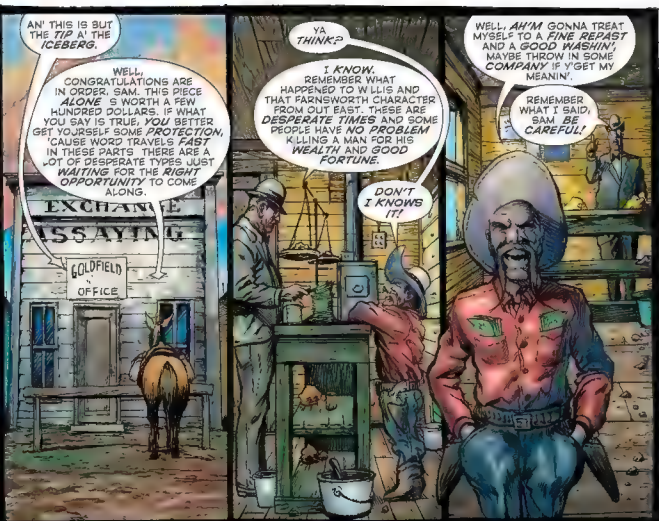
THE OTHER  
THE ACRID SMELL  
OF GUNSMOKE

MY  
OH, MY

HRUM

















# ONE HALF HOUR EARLIER...



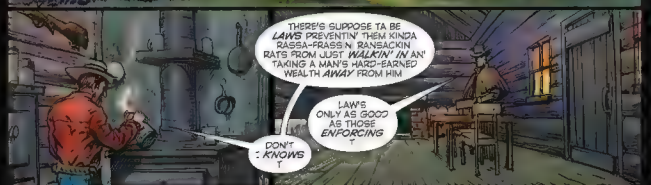
THIS IS IT,  
HOME SWEET HOME.  
TILL AH BUYS ME A  
MANSION AN' A BOAT,  
THAT S.



SO YOU  
REALLY EXPECT  
ME TA HAVE SOME  
TROUBLE COMIN'  
MY WAY WITTH  
HEX?

WORD  
S OUT

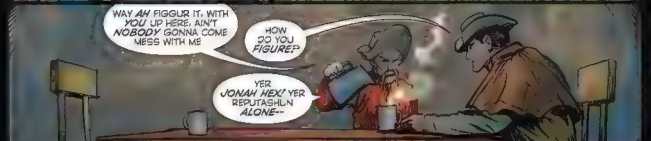
A BIG PART  
OF ANY CLAIM S  
HAVING THE RIGHT  
PEOPLE TO  
PROTECT IT.



THERE'S SUPPOSE TA BE  
LAWS PREVENTIN' THEM KINDA  
RABBIT-PRASS N' BANSACKIN'  
RATS FROM JUST KILLIN' AN AN  
TAKING A MAN'S HARD-EARNED  
WEALTH AWAY FROM HIM

LAWS  
ONLY AS GOOD  
AS THOSE  
ENFORCIN'

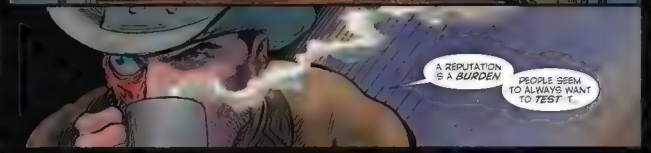
DON'T  
KNOWS



WAY AH FIGGER IT, WITH  
YOU UP HERE, AIN'T  
NOBODY GONNA COME  
MESS WITH ME

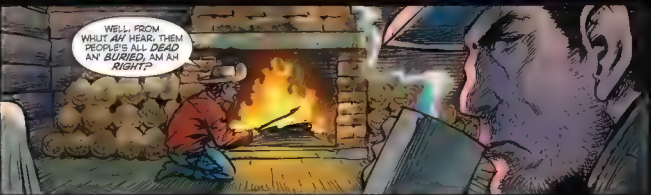
HOW  
DO YOU  
FIGURED

YER  
JONAH HEK? YER  
REPUTASHIN  
ALONE--

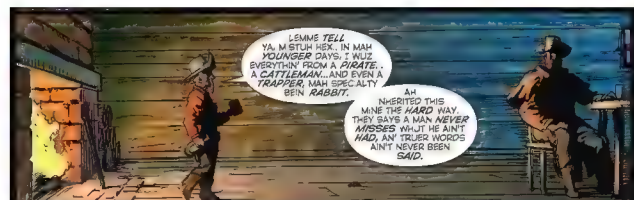


A REPUTATION  
S A BURDEN

PEOPLE SEEM  
TO ALWAYS WANT  
TO TEST IT.



WELL, FROM  
WHUT AH HEAR, THEM  
PEOPLE'S ALL DEAD  
AN' BURIED. AN AH  
RIGHT?



LEMME TELL  
YA, M' STUH HEX, IN MAH  
YOUNGER DAYS, I WUZ  
EVERYTHIN' FROM A PIRATE,  
A CATTLEMAN, AND EVEN A  
TRAPPER, MAH SPECIALTY  
BEIN' RABBIT.

AH  
INHERITED THIS  
MAINE THE HARD WAY.  
THEY SAY A MAN NEVER  
FORGES WHUT HE AINT  
HAD, AN' TELLS WORDS  
AINT NEVER BEEN  
SAID.



WHEN AH MOVED WEST, AH MET ME  
A LITTLE LADY THAT WORKED IN THE  
THEATRE. SHE S WUZ THE MOST BEE-  
YOOTFUL GIRL I EVER DOO BEE.  
AN' WE WUZ MATRIMONIED R'IGHT  
SQUARE AWAY.

AS A WEDDIN'  
PRESENT, HER POLKS  
BOUGHT US THIS PLOT O' LAND.  
WITH THIS MAE STARTED ALREADY  
WE WUZ GONNA DO THIS TOGETHER;  
A PROPER PAIR O' JOVLY  
PROSPECTORS... BUT SHE SHTUFF  
PASSED JUST A MONTH AFTER  
HAD AN ACCIDENT WHERE SHE FELL  
FROM HER HORSE, WORKIN'  
THE LAND.

AINT A  
DAY GONE BY  
WHERE AH DON'T  
THINK A HEX



HOW  
'BOUT  
YOU?

HOW  
'BOUT  
ME  
WHAT?

SOMEONE  
SPECIAL?



I'M  
NOT IN A TALKIN'  
MOOD. I'M GONNA  
WALK THE PERIMETER  
A BIT.

SURE  
DONT MEAN  
NO HARM

NONE  
TAKEN

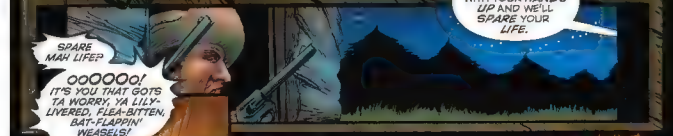








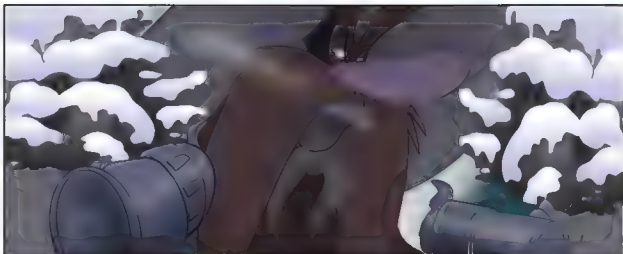
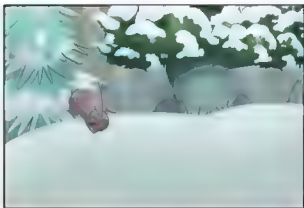




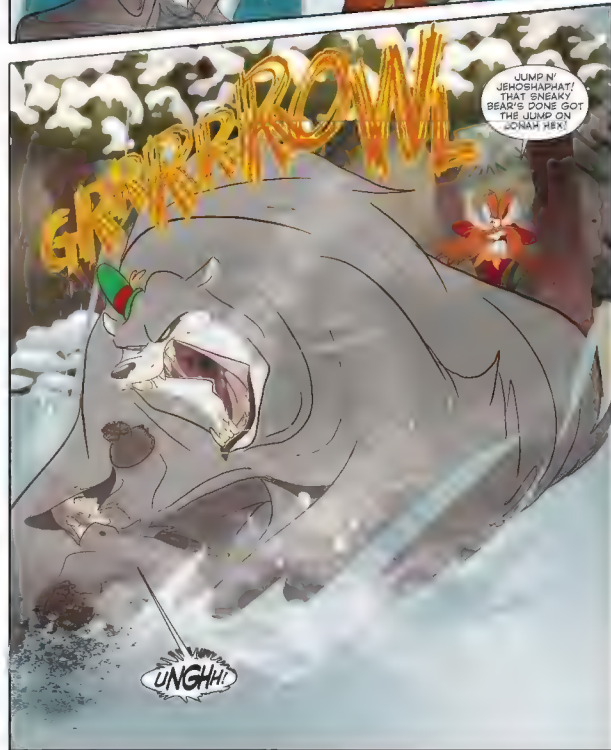
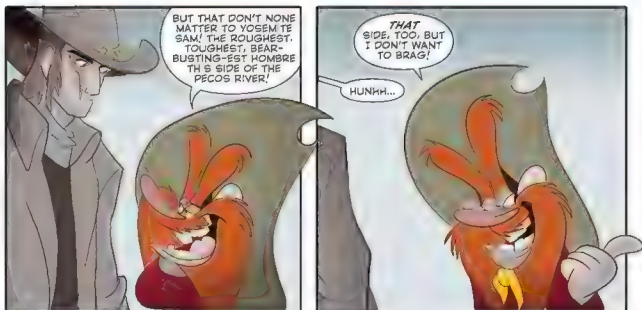






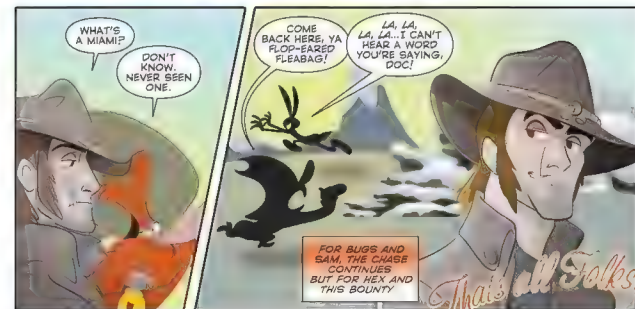
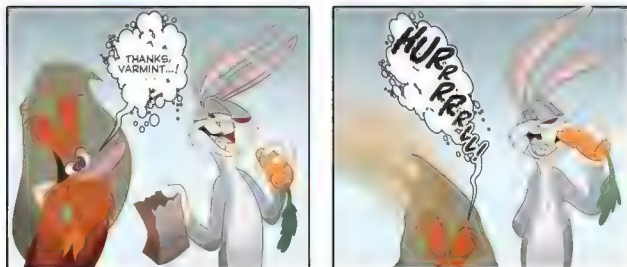
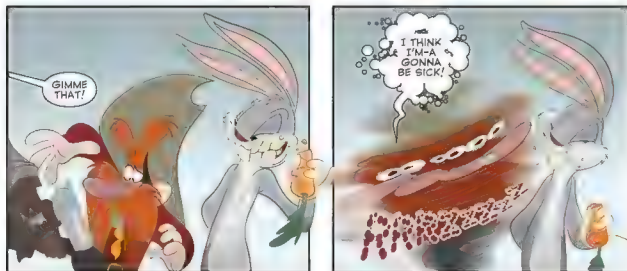






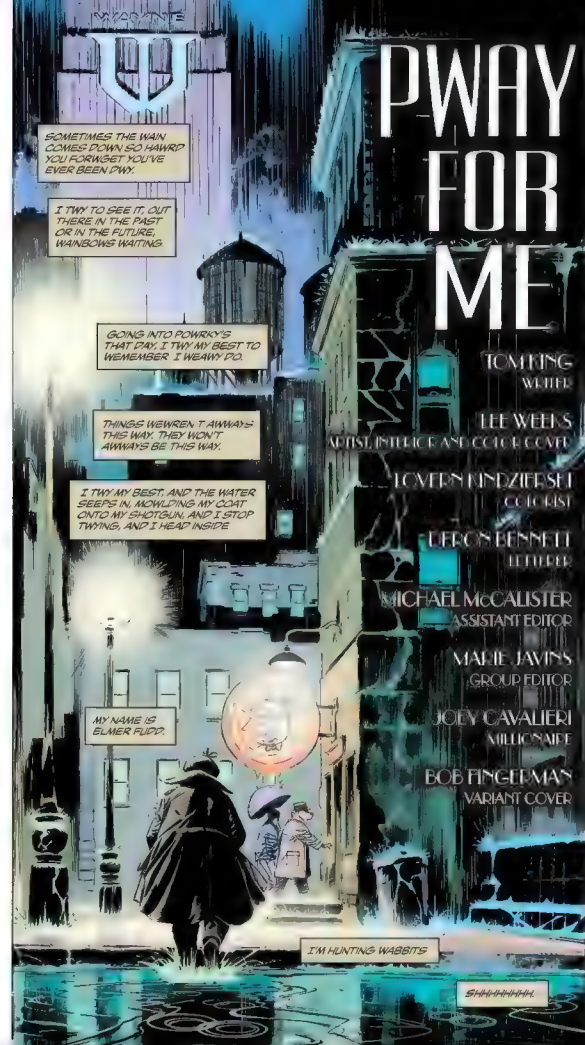


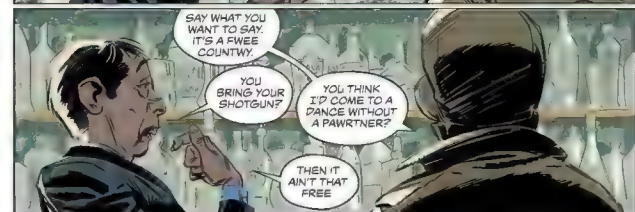




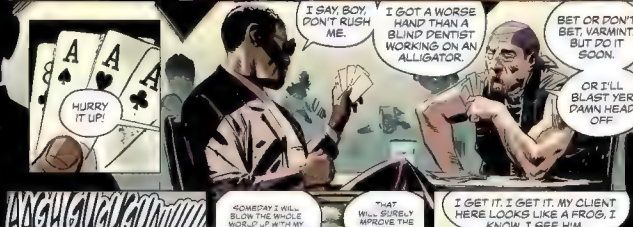


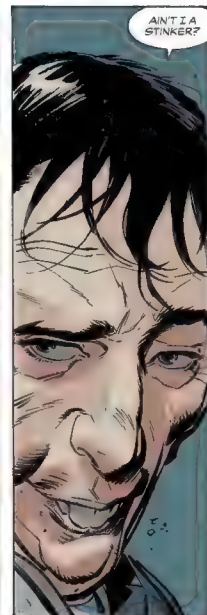
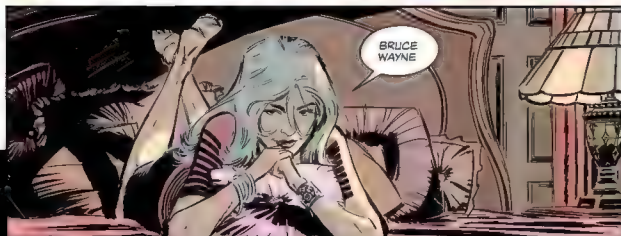
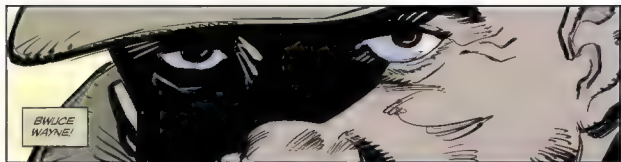




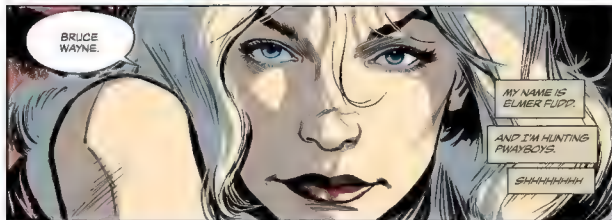
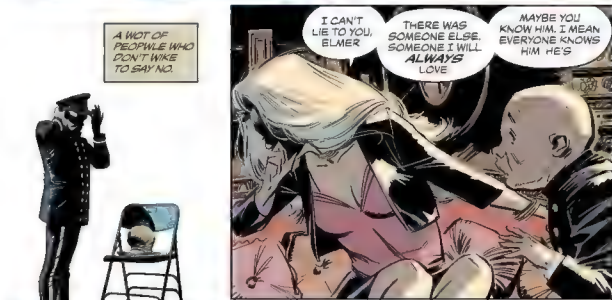
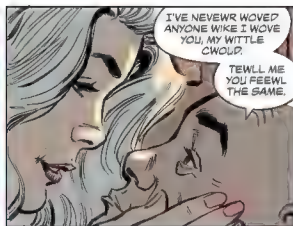
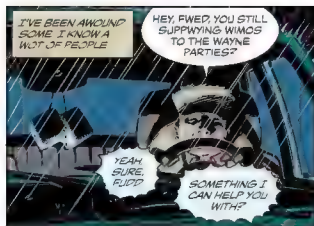


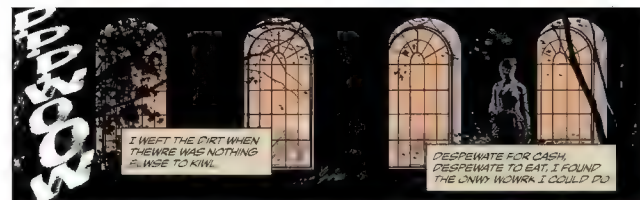
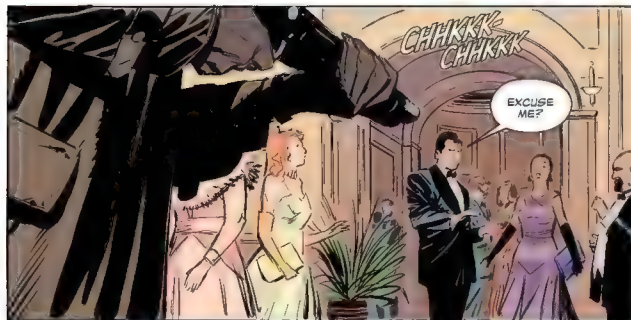




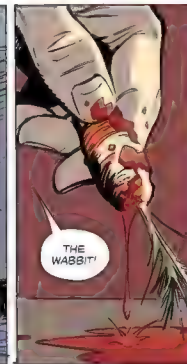
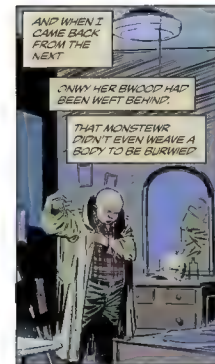
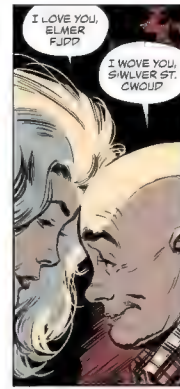
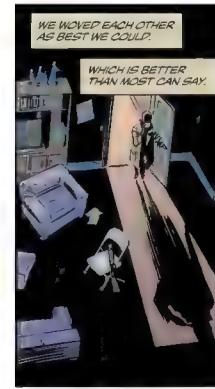






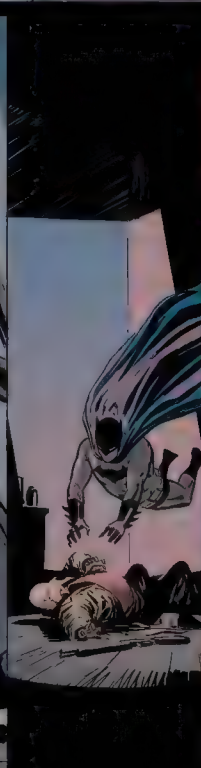
























GROOOOZZZZKKKK!

OH, SHUT UP!



SORRY, TWEETY. I THINK YOU MAY HAVE GWABBED YOUR WAST PUDDY TAT.



DON'T WORRY.

THE CELLS AT ARKHAM HAVE A GREAT VIEW OF VENUS.



HEWO, MY HONEY

HEWO, MY BABY

HEWO, MY WAGTIME PAWL



BROWW

YOU'RE DETHICABLE



EH.

WHAT'S UP, DOCS?

BUGS!

WHY? WHY DID YOU DO IT?!

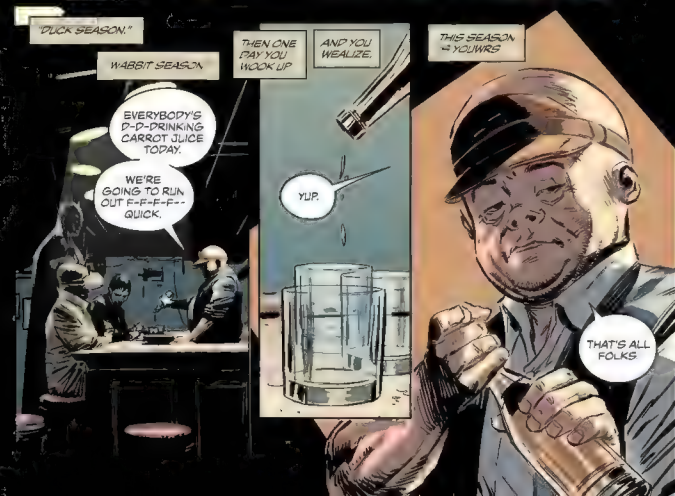
WHY DID YOU KILL SILVER ST CLOUD?!

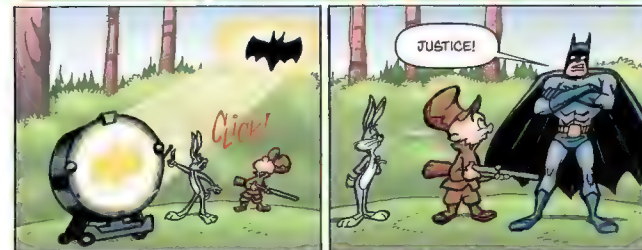
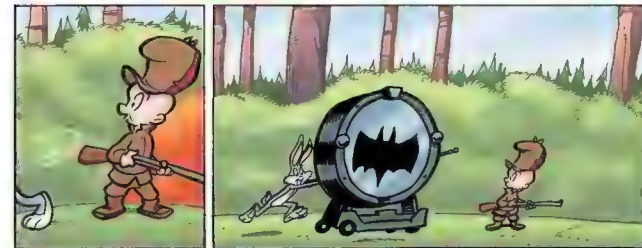
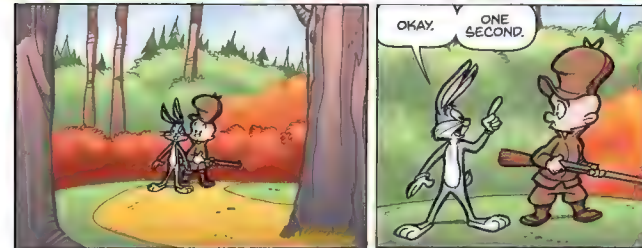
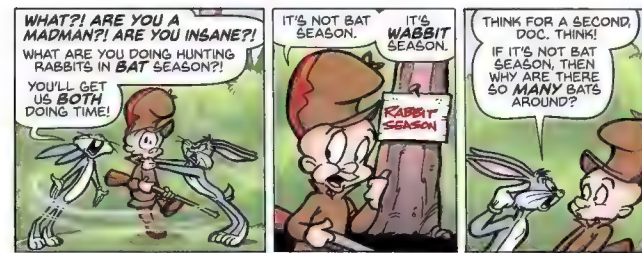
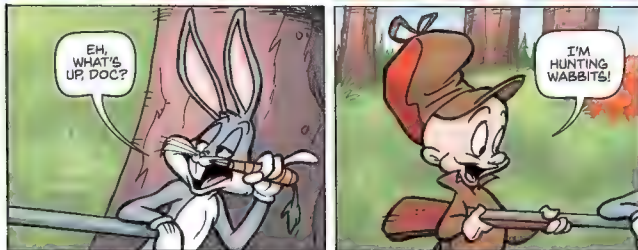
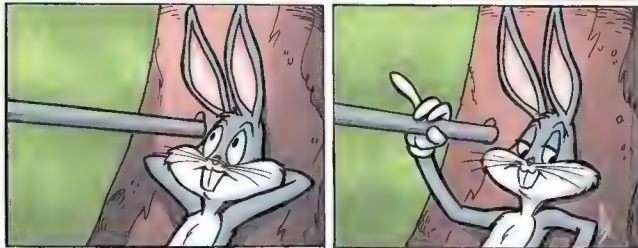
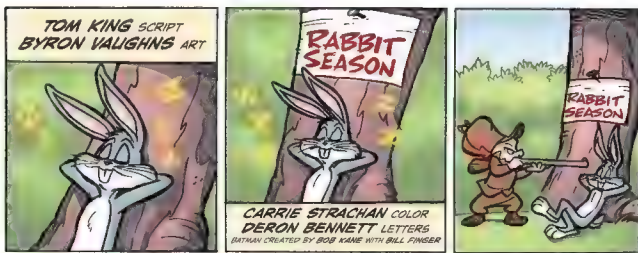
THAT'S EASY

HE DID IT...

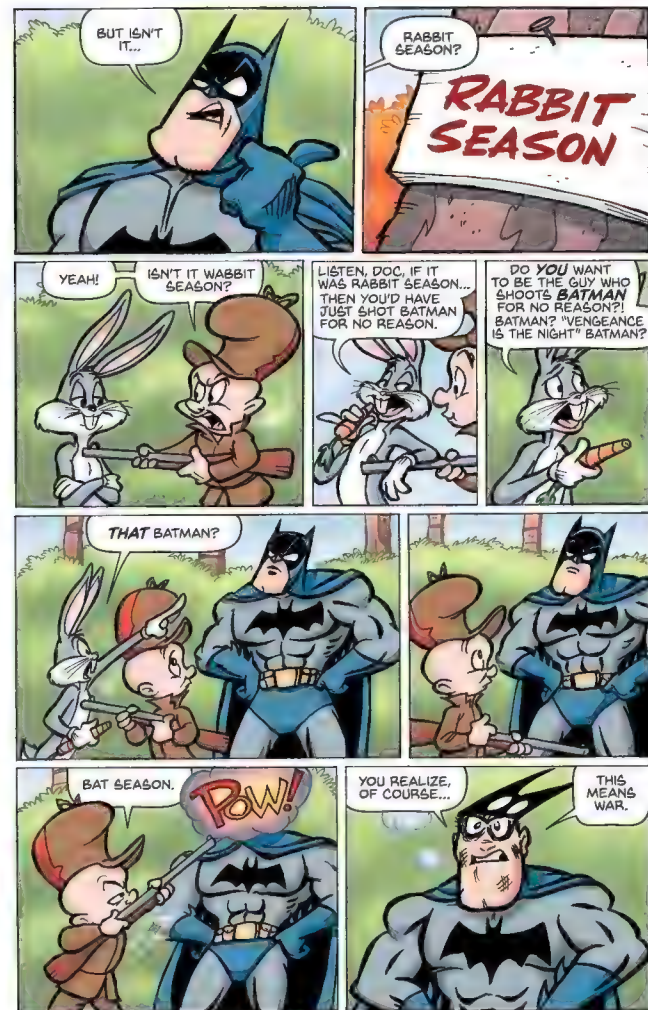






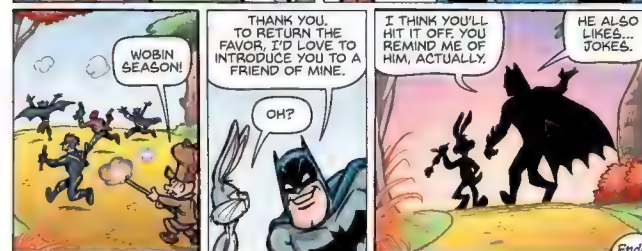
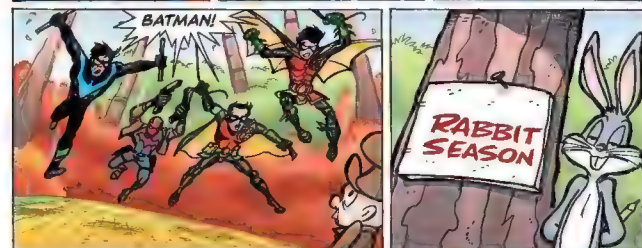
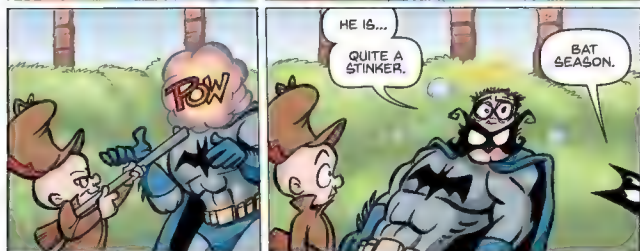
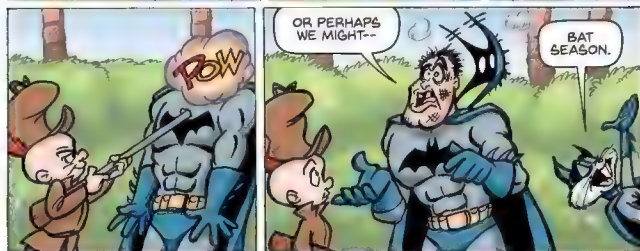
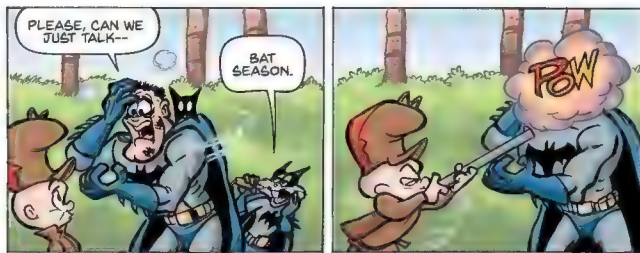












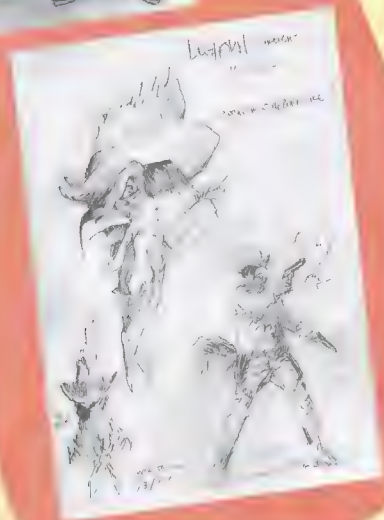
TASMANIAN DEVIL design by JIM LEE



JONAH HEX/YOSEMITE SAM SPECIAL #1 cover sketches by MARK TEXEIRA







"A gleefully absurd mash-up of the two franchisees, one made all the more ridiculous by the fact that it presents itself as a completely serious and gritty noir tale."

IGN

"Writer Tom King has always been fantastic at infusing a sense of existential darkness and dread into comics, and in BATMAN/ELMER FUDD, he lays it on thick with a classic noir story of revenge."

io9

"It's Bat-Season... King creates a neo-noir world about the Looney Tunes cast."

Newsarama



**DC's iconic superheroes meet the wacky characters of Looney Tunes in some of the most surprising stories in comics!**

When Elmer Fudd sets his sights on Bruce Wayne, it's a "wabbit hunt" you'd never imagine! Prospector Yosemite Sam strikes it rich, but can circus performer Foghorn Leghorn and bounty hunter Jonah Hex keep him alive long enough to enjoy it?



Plus, Wonder Woman enlists the help of the Tasmanian Devil to save the Amazons; Lobo gets caught in the war between a mutated roadrunner and a wily super-genius of a coyote; and the last survivors of Mars fight over the fate of planet Earth! And, when the Legion of Super-Heroes needs help, a wrong turn at Albuquerque means the future's survival depends on... "Super" Bugs Bunny!



**Worlds collide courtesy of some of comics' greatest talents, among them Tom King, Lee Weeks, Jimmy Palmiotti, Mark Texeira, Tony Bedard, Bill Morrison, Kelley Jones, Steve Orlando, Sam Humphries and more!**

Collects **LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES/BUGS BUNNY SPECIAL #1**, **MARTIAN MANHUNTER/MARVIN THE MARTIAN SPECIAL #1**, **WONDER WOMAN/TASMANIAN DEVIL SPECIAL #1**, **LOBO/ROAD RUNNER SPECIAL #1**, **JONAH HEX/YOSEMITE SAM SPECIAL #1** and **BATMAN/ELMER FUDD SPECIAL #1!**



DC  
1  
LIMITED  
SERIES

MILLER  
SOMMARIVA  
HERMS

# MULTIVERSUS

COLLISION DETECTED



THE STORY  
BEHIND THE GAME  
**STARTS HERE!**

13+  
TEEN



THE FINAL ACT OF THE BATMAN: THE LONG HALLOWEEN EPIC

# BATMAN THE LONG HALLOWEEN

THE LAST HALLOWEEN

AN ALL-NEW  
10-ISSUE  
MYSTERY  
CELEBRATING  
THE LEGACY OF  
TIM SALE

WRITTEN BY  
JEPH LOEB

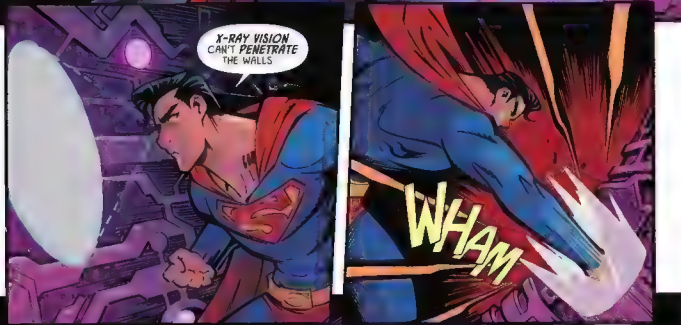
JOINED EACH ISSUE BY  
ONE OF COMICS' GREATEST ARTISTS  
EDUARDO RISSO · KLAUS JANSON  
MARK CHIARELLO · CLIFF CHIANG  
BILL SIENKIEWICZ · ENRICO MARINI  
DAVE JOHNSON · BECKY CLOONAN  
CHRIS SAMNEE · MATTEO SCALERA

With DAVE STEWART  
RICHARD STARKINGS

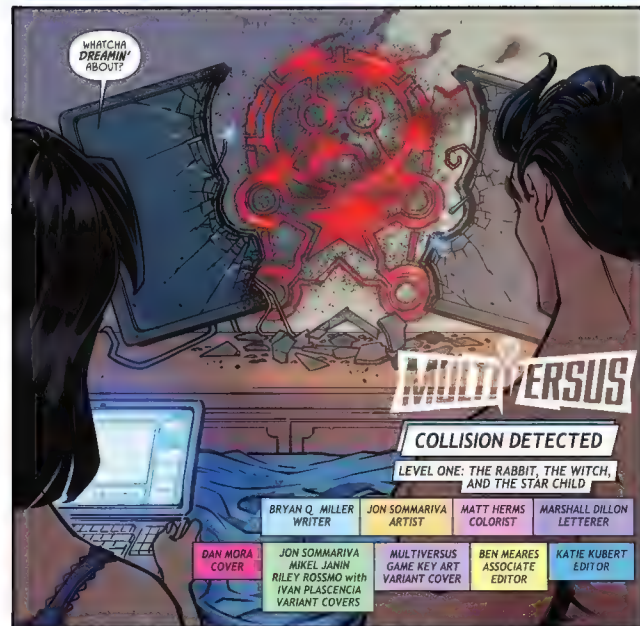


Starting in  
SEPTEMBER

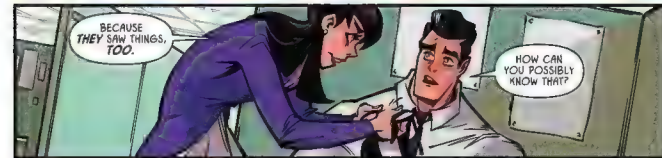




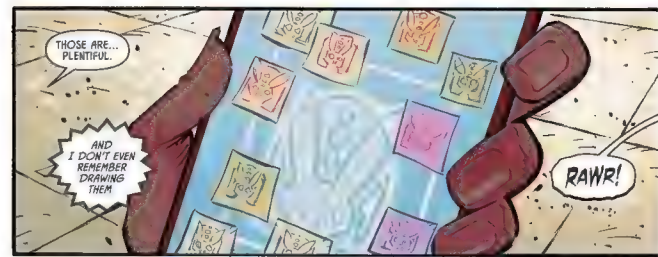




SUPERMAN CREATED BY JERRY SIEGEL AND JOE SHUSTER  
BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH THE JERRY SIEGEL FAMILY.

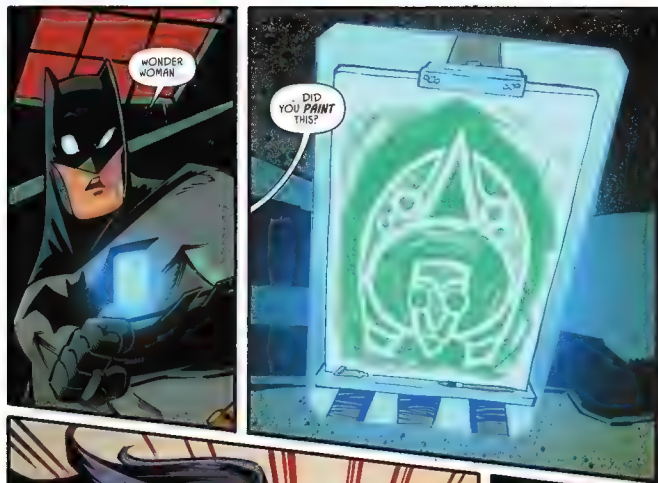






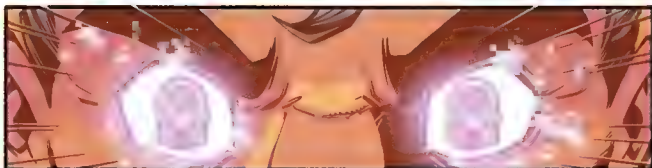
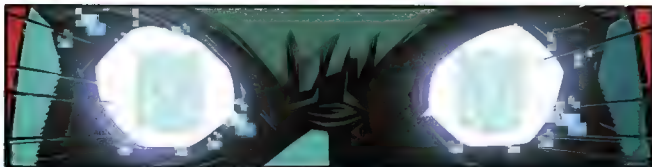
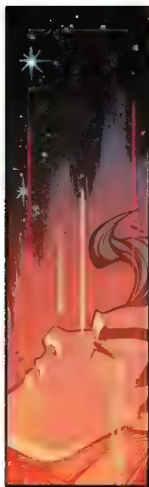






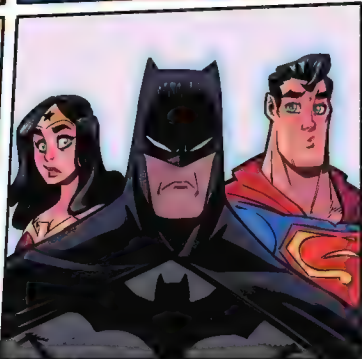


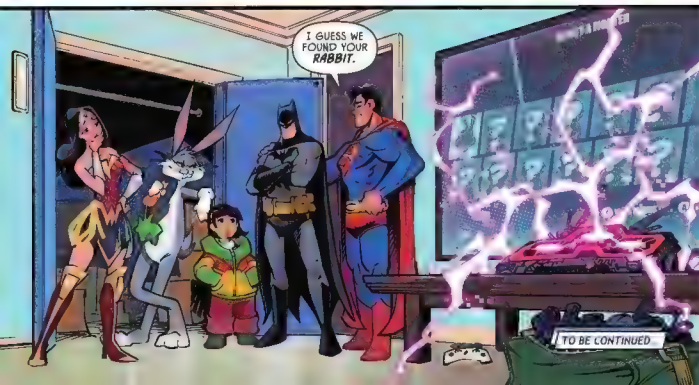












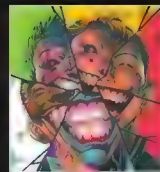
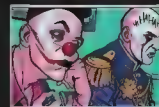
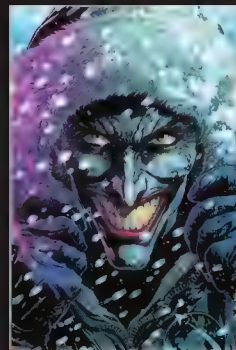
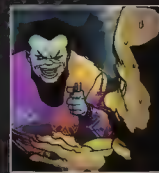
DC NATION SPOTLIGHT ON

# JOKER THE WORLD

This September, the Joker takes his unique brand of madness and mayhem on a world tour in *Joker: The World*, a 184-page hardcover anthology. It's the spiritual successor to *Batman: The World*, the bestselling, critically acclaimed graphic novel released in fall 2011.

This can't-miss graphic novel will feature Joker stories by creative teams representing 13 different countries, including renowned storytellers such as Geoff Johns, Satoshi Miyagawa, David Rubin, German Peralta, Alvaro Fong Varela, Jason Fabok, and others. With stories tailored to the authentic style, tone, and cultural sensibilities of different nations around the world, *Joker: The World* highlights how DC's most popular super-villain has inspired chaos on a global scale.

Uncover these unique stories celebrating the most compelling villain in popular culture.



DON'T MISS  
JOKER: THE WORLD,  
ON SALE THIS  
SEPTEMBER!

DC COMICS: HARVE JARVIS VP - Editorial Chief; JIM LEE President; Z. John Lee & Chief Creative Officer; ANNE B. DOWNS Senior VP & General Manager; LAUREY BERRY VP - Brand Strategy & Creative Services; DCM PAULY VP - Manufacturing & Production; LAWRENCE GANES VP - Editorial Programming & Talent Strategy; NICK J. NAPOLITANO VP - Publishing & Business Operations; NANCY SPEARS VP - Sales & Marketing.

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# MULTIVERSUS

COLLISION DETECTED

I'LL  
GET YOU, MY  
PRETTIES!  
AND  
SCOOBY-DOO,  
TOO!



SOMETHING  
WICKED WITCHY  
THIS WAY COMES!

MILLER  
SOMMARIVA  
HERMS

ALL IN



# ABSOLUTE BATMAN



NO MANSION.  
NO MONEY.  
ABSOLUTE WARRIOR.

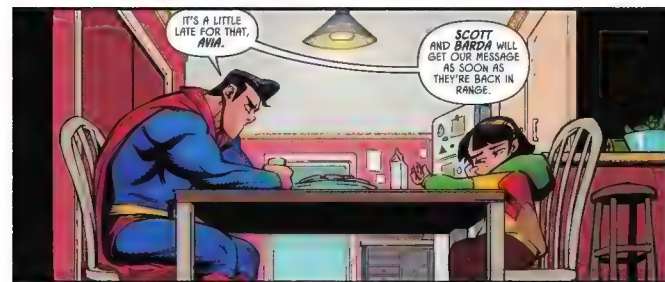
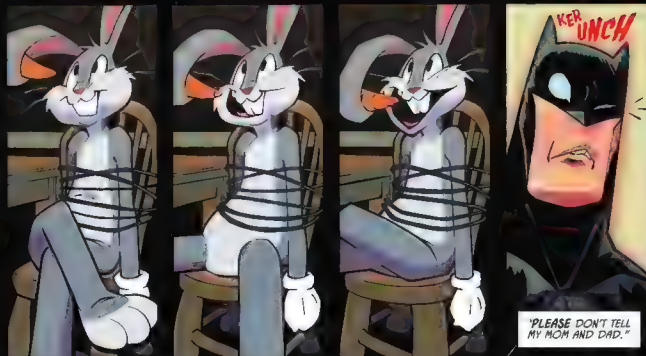
Written by SCOTT SNYDER • Art and cover by NICK DRAGOTTA

An all-new vision of the Dark Knight starts in OCTOBER



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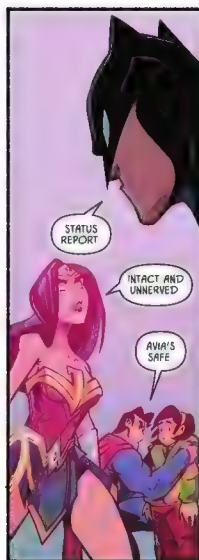




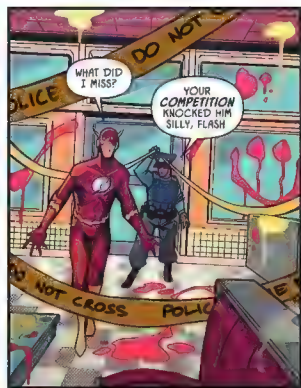












AFRICA.

WONDER WOMAN? FLASH HAS TWO CONFIRMED CONTACTS.

HAWKWOMAN AND GREEN LANTERN ARE EN ROUTE TO AN IMPACT SITE IN THE MEDITERRANEAN.

I SHALL JOIN THEM AS SOON AS I FINISH MY INVESTIGATION HERE IN GORILLA CITY.

ABOUT TO BEGIN MY LANDING CYCLE.

DEEEET

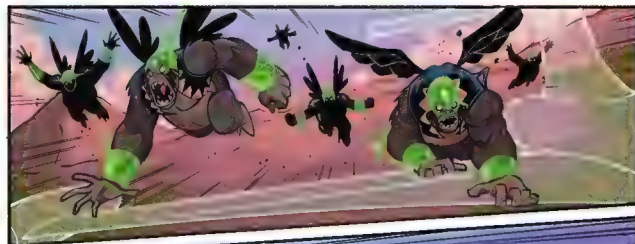
THOUGH IT WOULD APPEAR SOMEONE MAY WANT TO HELP ME WITH THAT.

DEEEET  
DEEEET

I'VE GOT INCOMING. TRYING EVASI--

--HUR.

THAT IS HONESTLY THE LAST THING I WAS EXPECTING TO SEE.



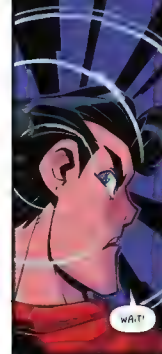
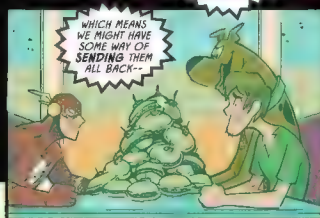




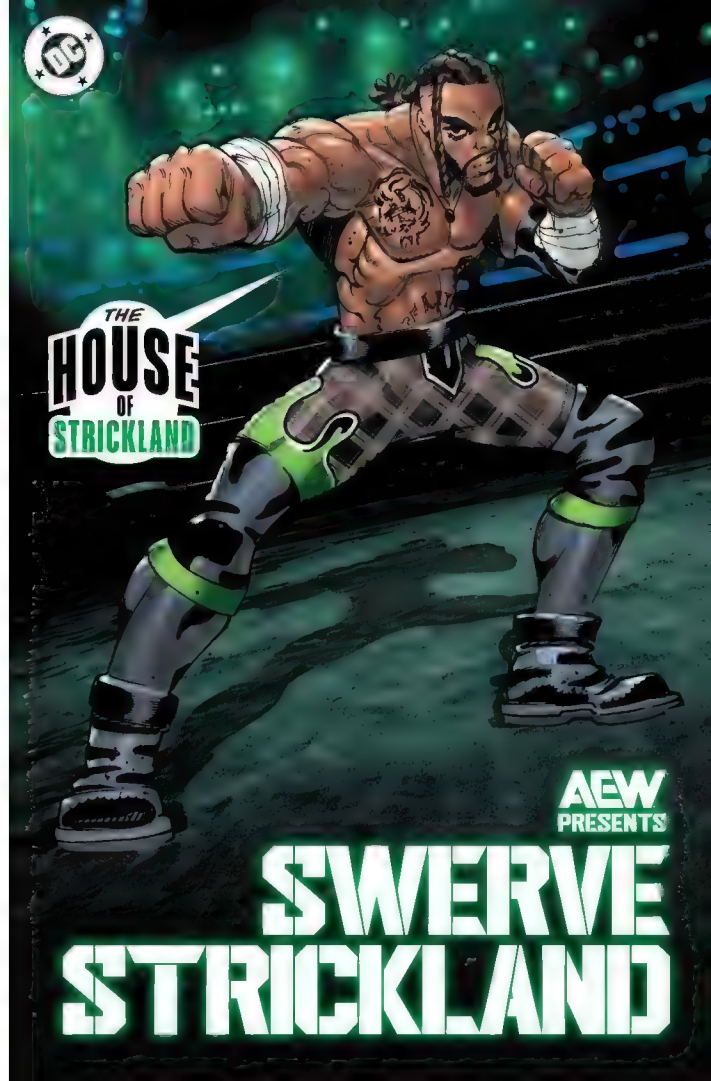














10 YEARS AGO...

SWERVE STRICKLAND WAS BORN TO FIGHT.

LIKE HIS FATHER, HE TOOK THAT FIGHT TO THE ARMY—BUT HIS SERVICE DIDN'T SERVE.

HIS SERGEANT HATED OFF-THE-BOOKS MISFEASANTS, NOT SOLDIERS...

SO SWERVE TOOK A WALK.

THE CODES OF LARGER MEN HAD FAILED HIM, SO SWERVE TURNED TO HIS OWN CODE...AND A NEW ARENA.

FIRST THE UNDERGROUND, AND THEN—THE RING.

WHEREVER HE WALKS, SWERVE TESTS MEN...

...NONE MORE THAN HIMSELF.

HIS WORD IS HIS LAW...

WIN IF THAT WORD GETS MOUNTED.

SWERVE TRIED FIGHTING FOR OTHERS—NOW HE FIGHTS FOR HIMSELF.

HE BURNS HIS ENEMIES DRY...



...BECAUSE HE LOVES IT.

STILL MAKING TROUBLE STRICKLAND...YOU THINK I FORGET YOU? YOU AIN'T CHANGED.

TOO GOOD FOR WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE. TOO GOOD TO SET YOUR HANDS DIRTY.

FOLD THE GOLD, NANA. THERE'S OLD BUSINESS—WON'T BE LONG.

YOU'RE WRONG, SARGE. THESE HANDS'RE RILTY AS HELL, BUT IT'S NOT DIRT.

WHAT? NO-NO WAY YOU CAN BE THAT FAST!

SET BACK!

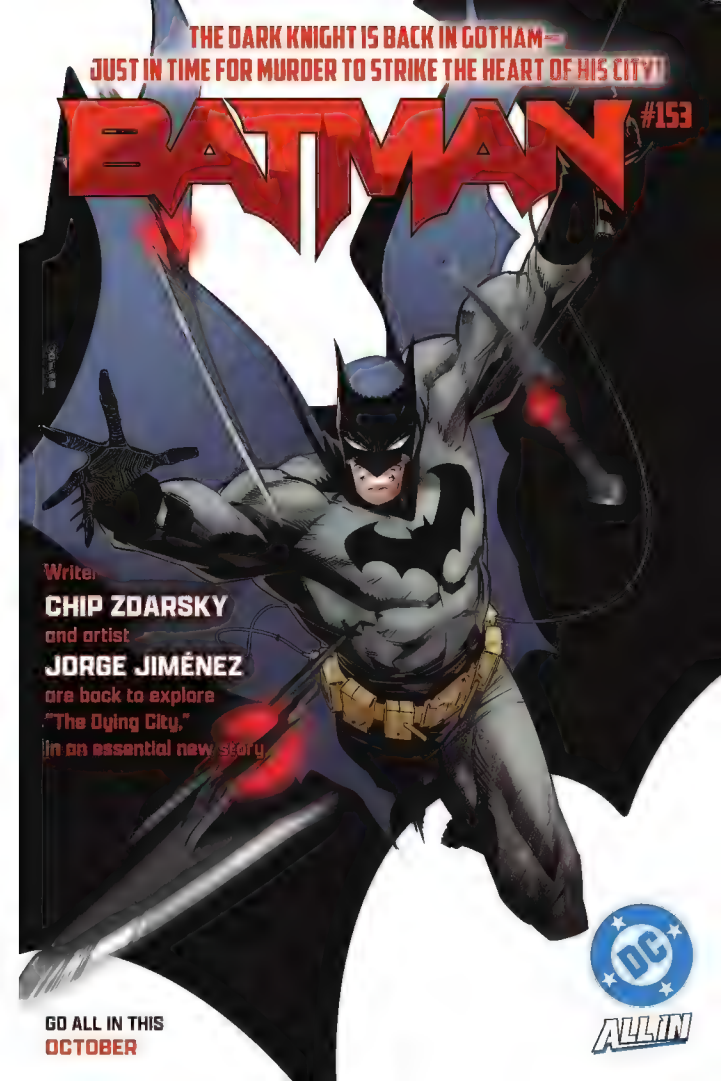
STOMP

IT'S TEARS, SWEAT, AND BLOOD.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN... SWERVE STRICKLAND!

BY THE OILFIELD WITNESS • SWERVE STRICKLAND: ARTIST • INK BY COLORED • STORY AND LETTERS • JACOBIE BUCKLEWORTH EDITOR





# ABSOLUTE BATMAN

## INTERVIEW WITH SCOTT SNYDER

Having previously defined one of the most influential eras of *Batman*, Scott Snyder returns to present an all-new vision of the Dark Knight alongside Nick Dragotta, one of the most viscerally powerful artists of the contemporary era, beginning with October's *Absolute Batman* #1.

### Scott, how did you become involved in DC's All in initiative?

**Scott Snyder:** When DC called and told me they wanted to take their biggest collective swing in a number of years I knew I couldn't turn down the chance to be a part of it. I'm so honored and thrilled to play a role in this amazing thing.

### What makes the Absolute Universe distinct?

This is a universe that's uncharted, surprising, chaotic, wild, dangerous, and crazy fun—it's a place where the heroes are underdogs, where the odds are stacked against them even more strongly, so they have to be fighters, to shine brighter. And getting to build this universe with some of the most amazing creators in comics...it's been one of the best times I've had in my entire career. I can't wait for everyone to see what we've been forging together.

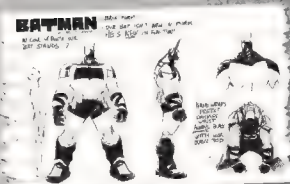
*All In* is designed as a line-wide jumping-on point. Every book will start a new epic story over the course of the fall, all the books in the main DC Universe, and in a whole new line of daring reinventions called the Absolute Universe. From October on, DC will have every kind of superhero story you could want: blockbuster, wild, personal, daring, everything; all of it connected by a megastory that starts in *DC All in Special*. It's all in the books, all in the stories, all right here in our DC comics.

### How is *Absolute Batman* different than any of your past *Batman* stories?

For the first time in my career, I don't want to give anything away. I just want people to open up the book and enter this new, shocking Gotham without knowing what's coming...because what's coming is Batman like you've never seen him.

This is a story that has been in my head for a long time, one that means a lot to me. I just had no place to tell it. But here, in this new universe, in a new ongoing book, I can tell it in the best and biggest way possible. This is Batman as you've never seen him, Batman as underdog, Batman as warrior.

DON'T MISS  
**ABSOLUTE BATMAN #1,**  
ON SALE IN OCTOBER!



DC COMICS: MARIE JAVINS VP - Editor in Chief; JAMIE LEE President, Publisher & Chief Creative Officer; ANNE DOWNS Senior VP & General Manager; LARRY BERRY VP - Brand Design & Creative Services; DON FALLETTO VP - Manufacturing & Production; LAWRENCE GARNER VP - Editorial Programming & Talent Strategy; NICK J. NAPOLITANO VP - Publishing & Business Operations; NANCY SPEARS VP - Sales & Marketing.

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# MULTIVERSE

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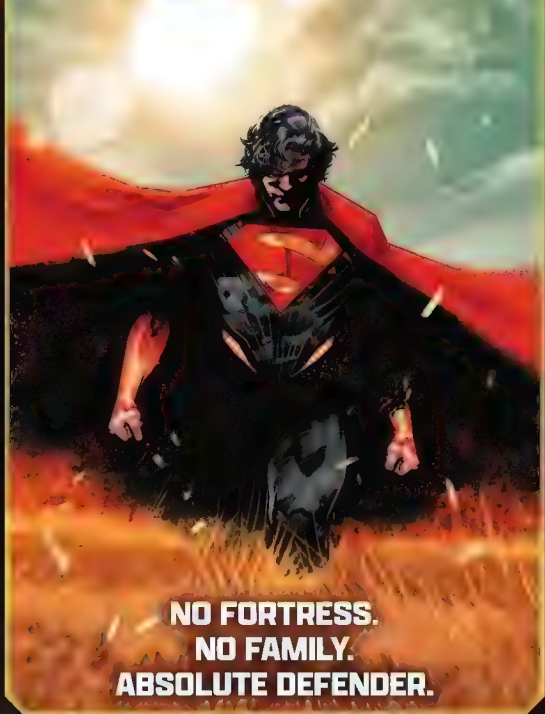
MILNER  
SUMMARIVA  
HERMS

**ALL IN**



**ABSOLUTE**

**SUPERMAN**



**NO FORTRESS.  
NO FAMILY.  
ABSOLUTE DEFENDER.**

Written by **JASON AARON** • Art and cover by **RAFA SANDOVAL**

The outlaw **Man of Steel** debuts in **NOVEMBER**

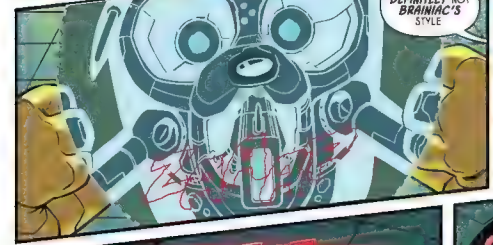
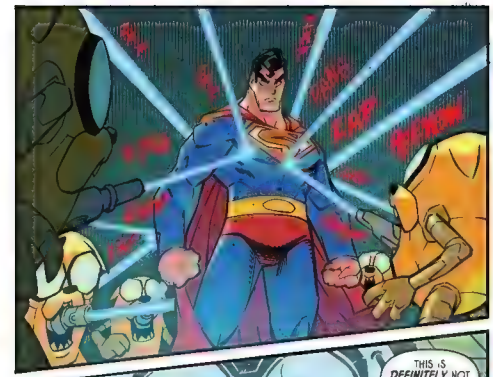
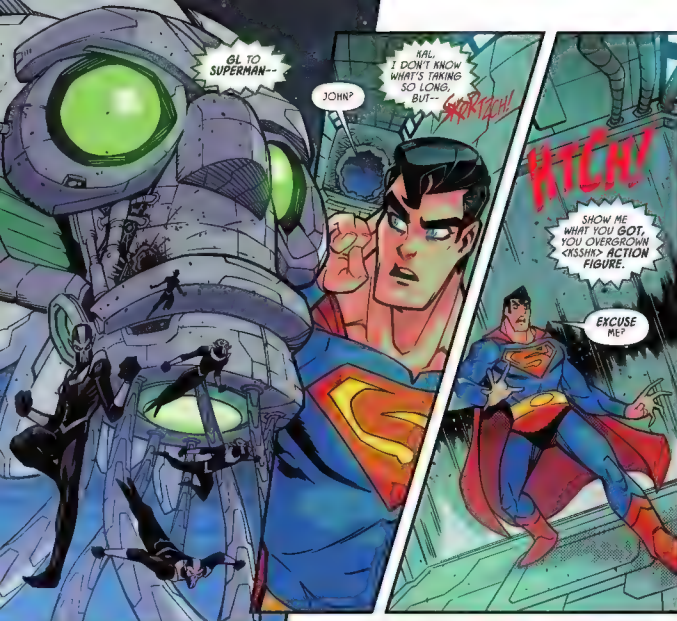








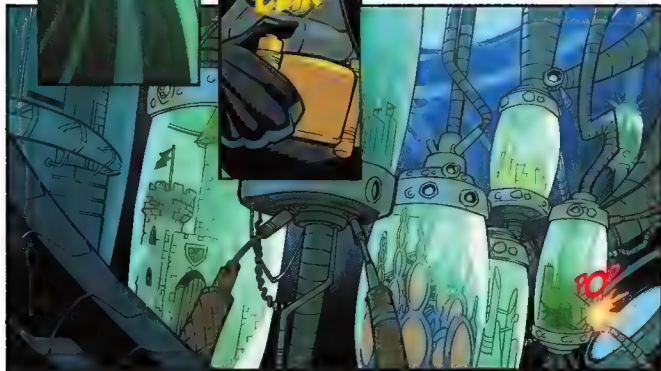


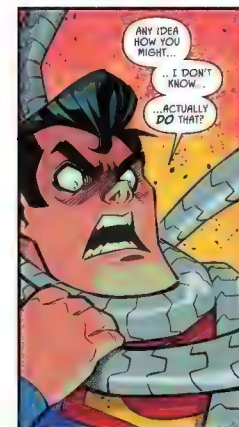
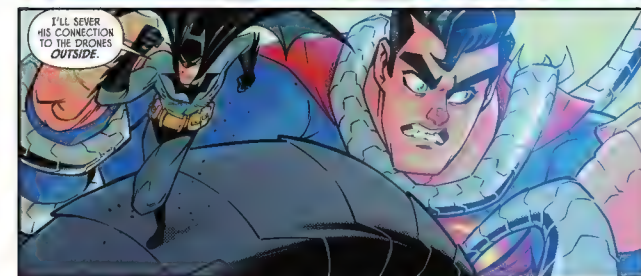




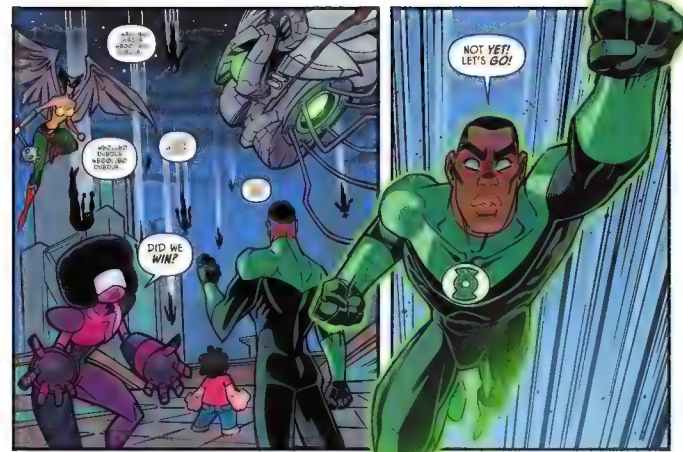


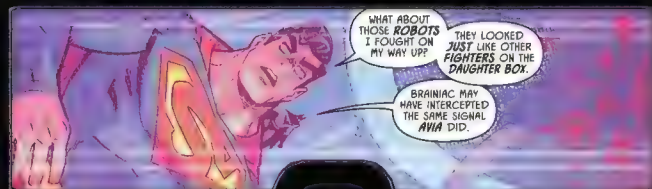
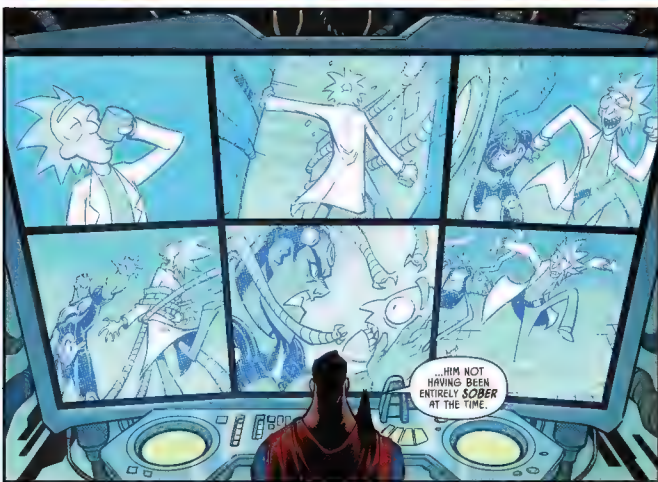






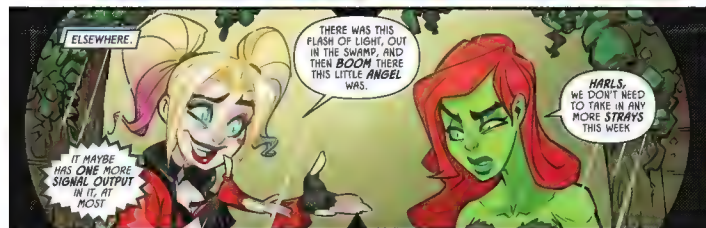
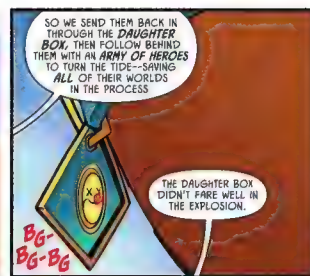
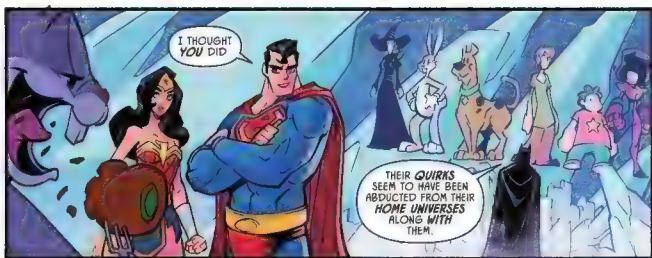










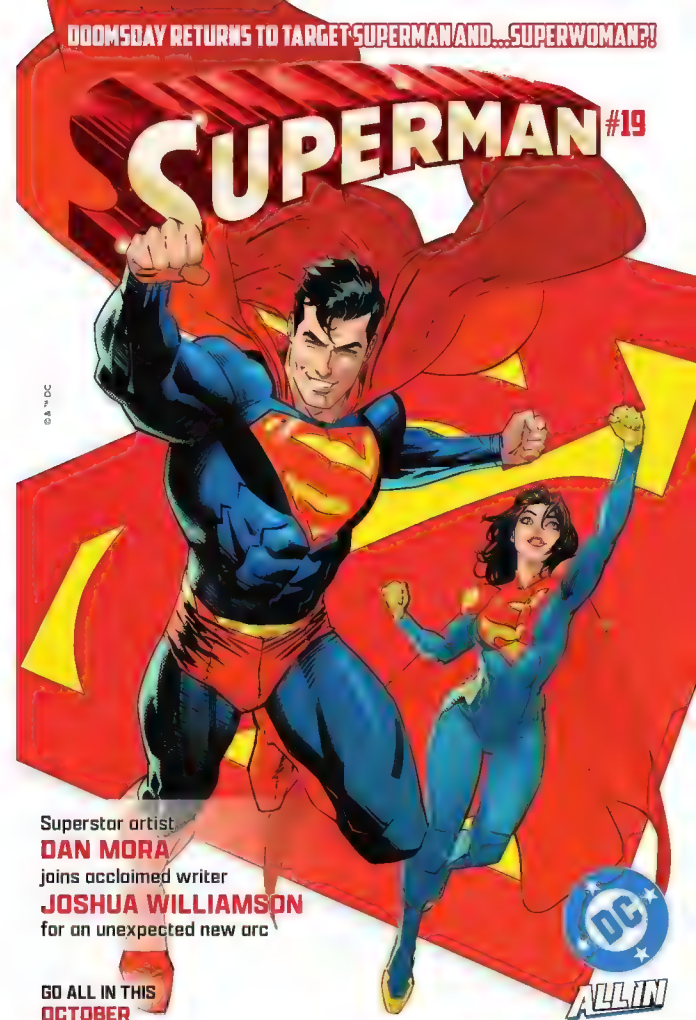


















# MULTIVERSUS

COLLISION DETECTED



MILLER  
SOMMARIVA  
HERMS

DC'S FIRST SUPER-TEAM REUNITES TO FACE ALL-NEW CHALLENGES!

# JSA



Writer **JEFF LEMIRE**  
and artist **DIEGO OLORTEGUI**  
chart the Justice Society's place  
in the post-*Absolute Power* world

GO ALL IN THIS **NOVEMBER**







STAY BEHIND THESE.



KOBLAM



CANDY GRIM

GET THE HELL OUT OF OUR HOUSE, CLOWN.

"OUR" HOUSE?



YOU'VE BEEN LIVING HERE FOR SIX YEARS, HARLEY.

OUR GARDENS MIGHT AS WELL BE GREY.



AND HERE I THOUGHT YOU TWO WERE JUST "SHAKIN' UP."



WE ARE

AND HOW!



SPARE ME THE CUP OF SAPPIC SUGAR AND JUST GIVE ME THE--



--THE

IS IT A REINDEER OR A DOG?

IT'S A REINDOGS AND IT'S...  
...OURS.



JUST GET IT TO THE CAR AND GO!



I'LL HANDLE HIM.



BUT WE LOST THE CLICKER!

HAHAHA HA HA!

FIGURE IT OUT, HARL!

# MULTIVERSUS: COLLISION DETECTED

LEVEL FOUR:  
THE FAST AND  
THE FURRIEST

**WROOOOM!**

BRYAN Q. MILLER  
WRITER

JON SOMMARIVA  
ARTIST

MATT HERMS  
COLORIST

MARSHALL DILLON  
LETTERER

DAN MORA  
COVER

VARIANT COVER  
RYAN BENJAMIN

BEN MEARES  
ASSOCIATE  
EDITOR

KATIE KUBERT  
EDITOR

SUPERMAN CREATED BY JERRY SEIGEL AND JOE SHUSTER  
BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH THE JERRY SEIGEL FAMILY

MEANWHILE...

ALL OF YOUR  
INDIVIDUAL EARTHS  
CAN SIMULTANEOUSLY  
COEXIST.

IT'S SIMPLE  
SCIENCE.

WHAT'S THIS  
"SCIENCE" YOU  
KEEP PRATTLING  
ON ABOUT?

CONSIDER SCIENCE  
TO BE "MAGIC" THAT  
ISN'T COMPLETE

**=GASP!=**

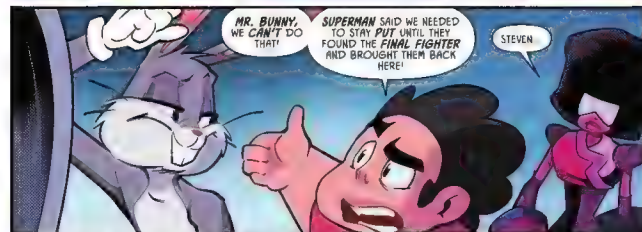
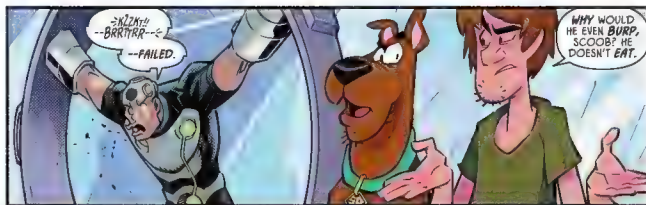
I MEAN,  
IF YOU'RE  
REALLY GOING  
TO MAKE ME PUT  
A FINE POINT  
ON IT...

RUCH  
RANGUAGE!

APO...LOGIES.

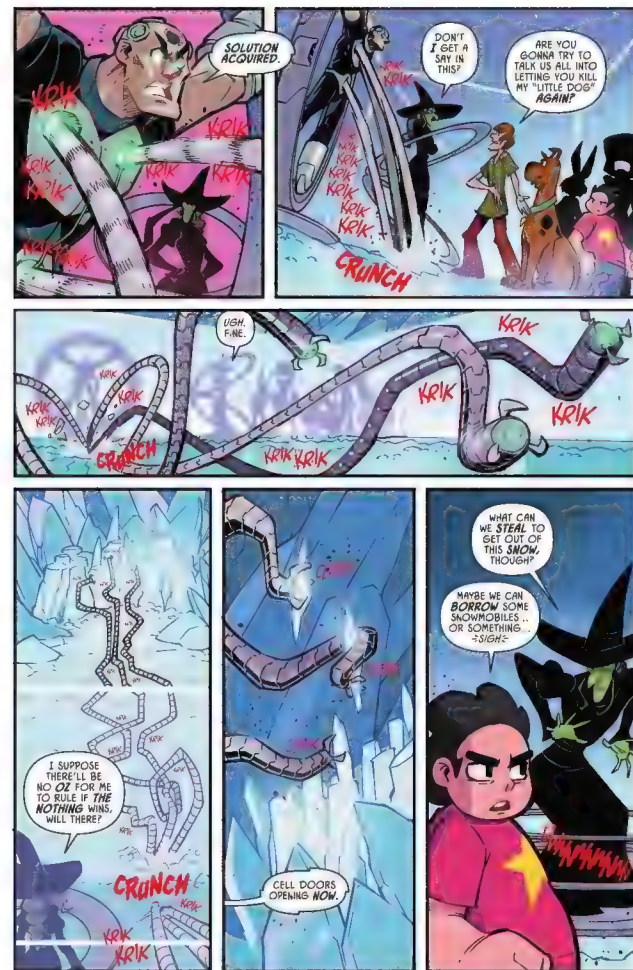
IT WOULD  
SEEM ATTEMPTS TO  
PURGE REMNANTS OF  
THE SCIENTIST FROM  
MY SYSTEMS HAVE...





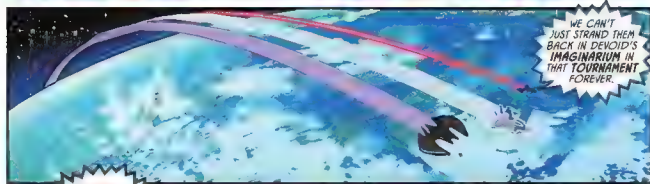
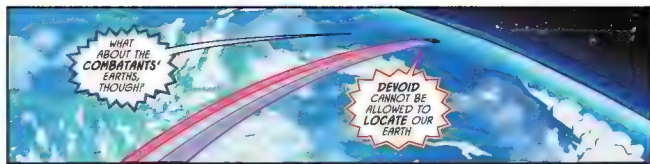


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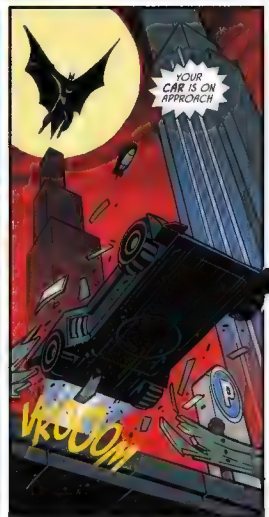
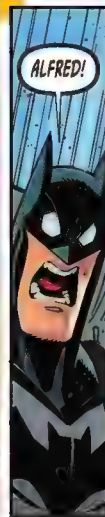
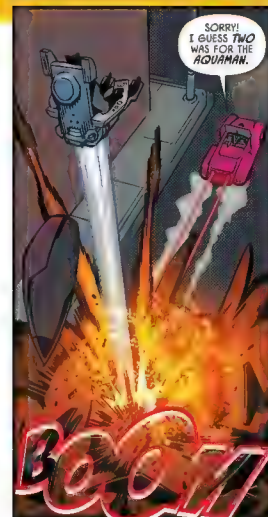
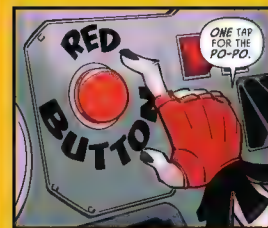
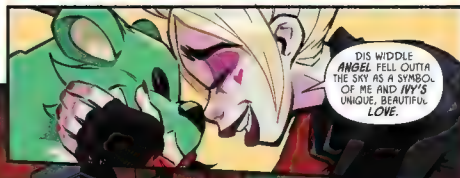
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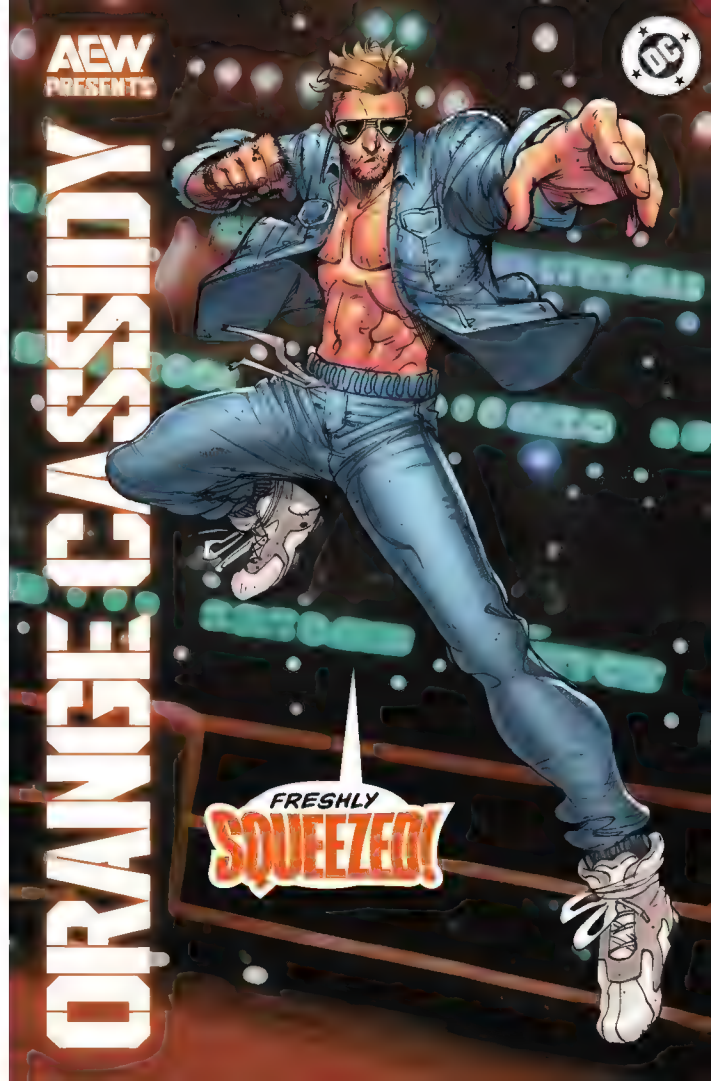








TO BE CONTINUED



AEW PRESENTS



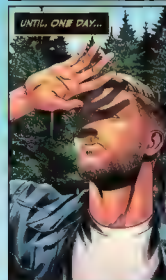
ORANGE CASADY



WHEREVER, WHENEVER.

ORANGE CASSIDY  
DOESN'T OVERTHINK IT—  
NEVER HAS.

HE WENT WHERE HIS  
HUMI LED HIM, DOING  
WHATEVER.



UNTIL, ONE DAY...



FATE  
TRIPPED  
HIM.



FATE...

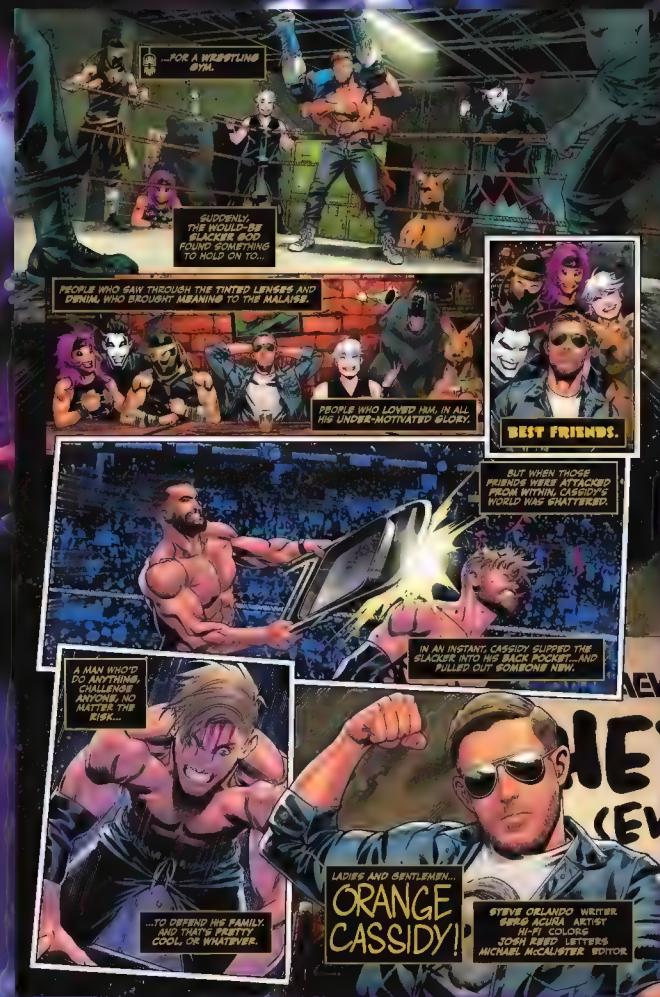


...AND THE  
PERFECT PAIR  
OF SHADES.

WOW.  
FINALLY.

THEY REALLY  
PULLED THE OUTFIT  
TOGETHER, AND  
THAT BACKLICK  
WELD MORE.

AT THE  
BOTTOM WAS  
A CARD...



...FOR A WRESTLING  
SYM.

SUDDENLY,  
THE WOULD-BE  
BLACKER BOB  
FOUND SOMETHING  
TO HOLD ON TO...

PEOPLE WHO SAW THROUGH THE TINTED LENSES AND  
FINDING WHO BROUGHT MEANING TO THE MALLS.

PEOPLE WHO LOVED HIM, IN ALL  
HIS UNDER-MOTIVATED GLORY.

BEST FRIENDS.

BUT WHEN THOSE  
FRIENDS WERE ATTACKED  
FROM WITHIN, CASSIDY'S  
WORLD WAS SHATTERED.

IN AN INSTANT, CASSIDY SLIPPED THE  
BLACKER INTO HIS BACK POCKET... AND  
PULLED OUT SOMEBODY NEW.

A MAN WHO'D  
DO ANYTHING  
CHALLENGE  
ANYONE, NO  
MATTER THE  
RISK...

...TO DEFEND HIS FAMILY.  
AND THAT'S PRETTY  
COOL, OR WHATEVER.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN...  
**ORANGE  
CASSIDY!**

STEVE ORLANDO, WRITER  
BRIAN AGUIAR, ARTIST  
NIPPI, COLORS  
JOHN RABD, LETTERS  
MICHAEL MACAULIFFE, EDITOR





**AEW DYNAMITE**  
tbs  
WEDNESDAYS AT 8/7C

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tnt  
FRIDAYS AT 10/9C

**AEW COLLISION**  
tnt  
SATURDAYS AT 8/7C

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# John Cassaday

1971-2024

John Cassaday was one of my favorite creators. He was an incredible artist who drew beautifully naturalistic figures when house styles chased hyperrealism trends. A true maverick. John was also a nuanced storyteller who relied on sharp compositions and precise framing, which made his imagery cinematic and powerful. The sum total was just pure comics.

John was truly the kindest and most generous spirit. An integral part of WildStorm's early history and success, he spent a lot of time with us in San Diego. John's passing leaves me stunned and heartbroken.

Rest in peace, buddy.  
—Jim Lee, DC Comics Publisher & COO

My dear friend John Cassaday was not just an amazing artist but an amazing person—warm, kind, funny, charming, and generous. I knew him for nearly half my life, and ours was one of my most precious and valued friendships. He was easily one of the best comics illustrators and storytellers of the 21st century, a reference point and inspiration to the dozens and dozens of artists whose work he influenced. Most people, after they pass, are remembered only by a small group of friends and loved ones. John will be talked about and remembered by an entire industry for ages, and rightfully so. Rest in peace, Johnny. Love you.

—Mark Waid (Justice League Unlimited, Kingdom Come)

Working with John Cassaday on *Planetary* was one of the greatest periods of my comics career, and certainly informed how I'd approach comics in the years to come. *Planetary* was a showcase of the potential and possibility of comics, and there could not be a more thrilling book to work on, nor a more visionary artist than John. In those years we forged a friendship that would last for a lifetime. John was a brilliant artist, but as great as he was, John was an even better friend. I'm gonna miss him forever.

—John Layman (Planetary Titans)

I first met John in the '90s and was instantly blown away by his amazing artwork. He had a presence about him—a smile that lit up the room and an ease and softness to his voice and mannerisms that always made everyone around him want more of his attention. He loved comics, loved the art form, and encouraged and celebrated everyone's work around him. I was so happy to give him such a hearty hug when I saw him last, but I'll never dream I would be the last time. The world lost a great artist, and those in his circle lost a loyal, loving, and dear friend.

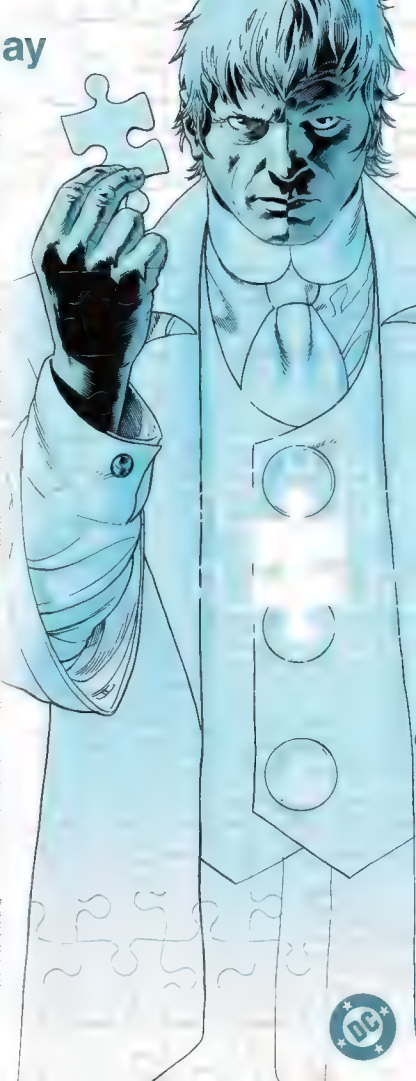
—Jimmy Palmiotti (Harley Quinn, Jonah Hex)

John was a titan. That tall, rangy, lantern-jawed Texan with the easy smile and the bone-dry sense of humor had universes inside him. He could do anything. He challenged himself as an artist and storyteller constantly, never standing still, always reaching for new peaks and always finding them. His kindness was eternal. My life would have been a very different and lesser thing if not for John Cassaday. The world and our medium are thinner and meaner places for his passing. These words are not enough. Good night, my good friend.

—Warren Ellis (Planetary)

John Cassaday started working on *Desperadoes* at WildStorm just as this newly minted colorist was learning the ropes in the coloring department. I got the chance to join John on *Planetary*, and history was made for both of us. John played no small part in making me the colorist I am today, by pushing me to try new techniques and effects while teaching me a great deal about the power of color in storytelling. Not only that, but John was sweet and down-to-earth, a gentleman and a dear friend from day one. John, I am a better artist and person for having known you and shared in your vision.

—Laura Martin (Planetary)



THIS  
LAND  
IS OUR  
LAND  
A BLUE BEETLE STORY



John Farrow  
Jeffrey Sachs

THIS  
LAND  
IS OUR  
LAND

A True American Story

DC

## OCTOBER



**A new graphic novel for young adults**



**NATION** SPOTLIGHT ON

**ALL IN**

ABSOLUTE  
**SUPERMAN**

The Absolute Universe continues to grow in size with *Algebra of Supervillains*, as Adam Jackson Hines and artist Mike Sandwood present a wholly reinvented version of the Man of Steel who is a little bit of an outlaw and much more of an underdog...but every bit the hero that has inspired fans for decades.

and here's a glimpse of the team's vision for the series, and a mission statement for the series from Aaron

This is the story of K2-B, an immigrant, coming of age in the world of today.

When Krypton explodes and Kal-El's rocket lands on Earth, in the fields of Kansas, he's found by the farmers, but that doesn't lead to the sort of idyllic upbringing we're used to seeing in Superman's origin. Instead, Kal-El will spend years on the run across the far corners of the globe, finding among the planet's most impoverished and persecuted peoples, working in mines and corporate-owned farms, fighting to protect the lost and unrepresented, getting glimpses from all different cultures of the sort of family life and identity he lost when his hometown exploded, always yearning to belong, somewhere, anywhere.

He's a Kal-El with a little bit Krypton, something of a wild boy, with long, unkempt hair and a sometimes fierce and startling disposition. Given everything he's been through, he's a bit edgy and angrier than the Superman we've used to. But at the same time, he's a lot like Clark Kent: shy and awkward and a bit clumsy, as he's still learning to live with his burgeoning powers. Kal-El is very genuinely both of these persons, the meek and the wild, without either one being an affectation. He is like a professional athlete who seems quiet and docile off the field, but becomes a focused beast whenever the whistle blows. He's a walking, breathing, building-upon contradiction in his way, the alien wild boy who's completely dandy about some of the most basic earthly customs, yet has learned a dozen languages during his travels and knows some of the most earthy and sly words that any human knows.



DON'T MISS **ABSOLUTE SUPERMAN #1**, ON SALE IN NOVEMBER!

**DC COMICS** MARIE JAVINS VP – Editorial Chief, JIM LEE President, Publisher & Chief Creative Officer, ANNE DEPIES Senior VP & General Manager, LARRY BERRY VP – Brand Design & Creative Services, DON FALLETTI VP – Marketing & Production, LAWRENCE GANEM VP – Editorial Programming & Talent Strategy, NICK J. NAPOLITANO VP – Publishing & Business Operations, NANCY SPEARS VP – Sales & Marketing

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**THE MAN OF STEEL: EXILED TO THE PHANTOM ZONE!**

**SUPERMAN**

**CTION**  
**COMICS**



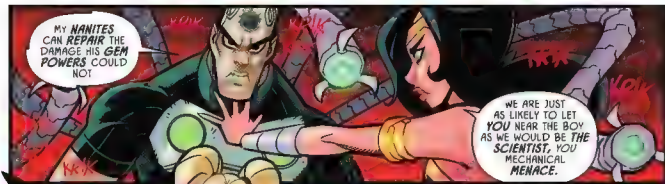
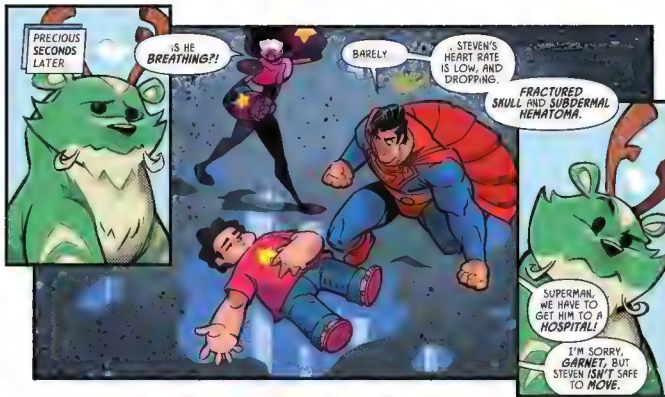
A new era for  
comics' first and greatest  
superhero series courtesy  
of **MARK WAID**  
and **CLAYTON HENRY**

PLUS: **MARIKO TAMAKI**  
and **SKYLAR PATRIDGE**  
take Supergirl to "Universe End"

**GO ALL IN  
WEEKLY**

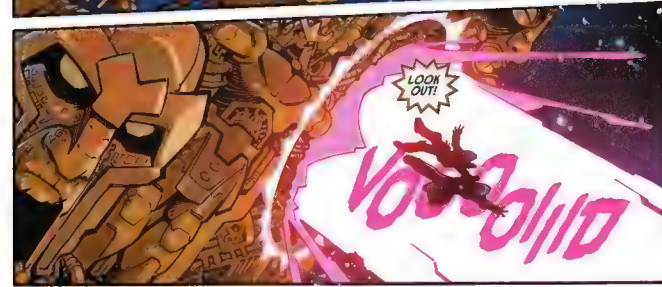
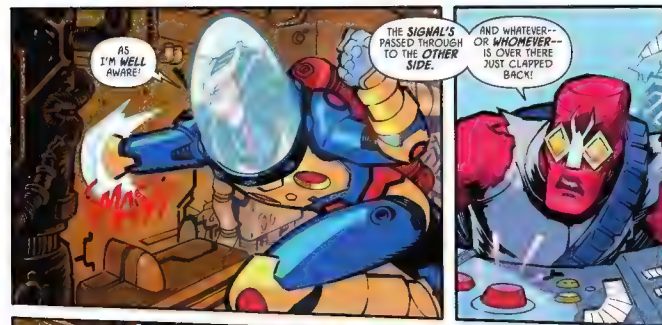
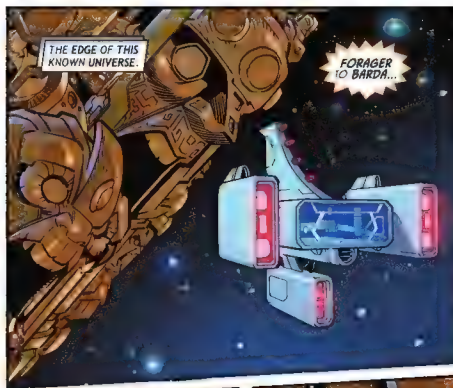


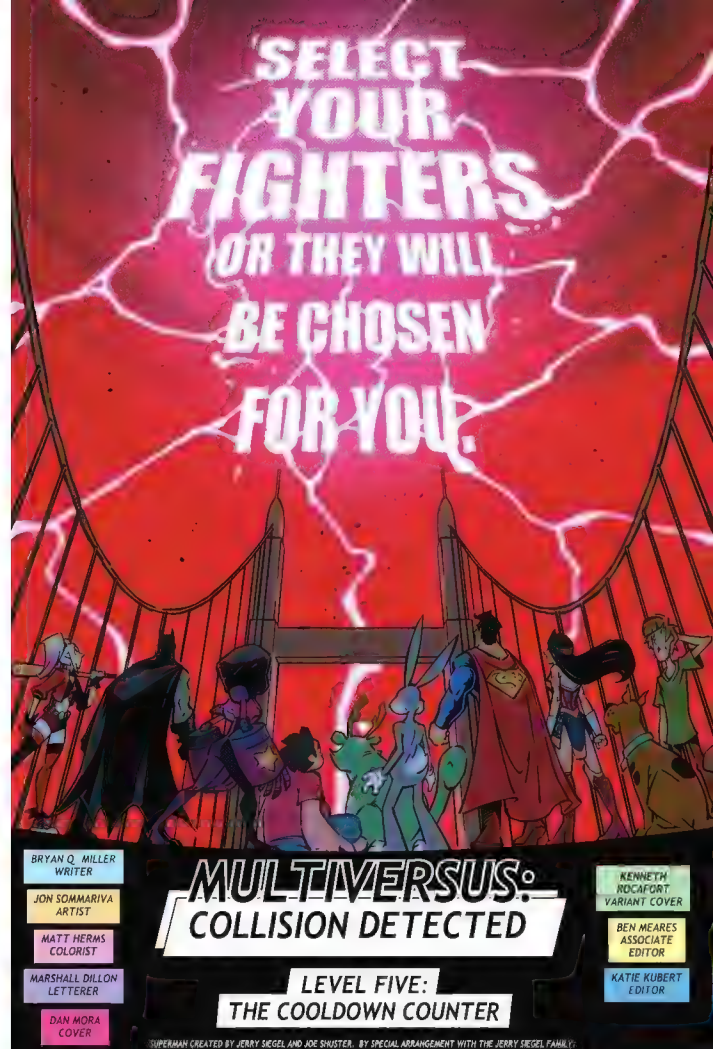






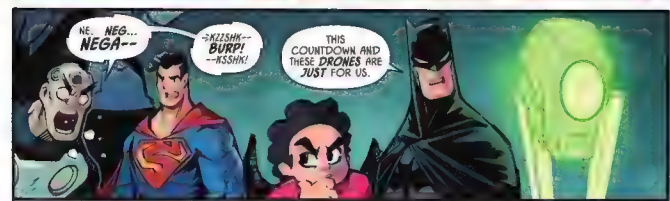
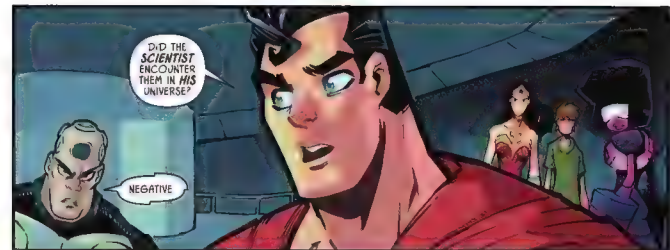
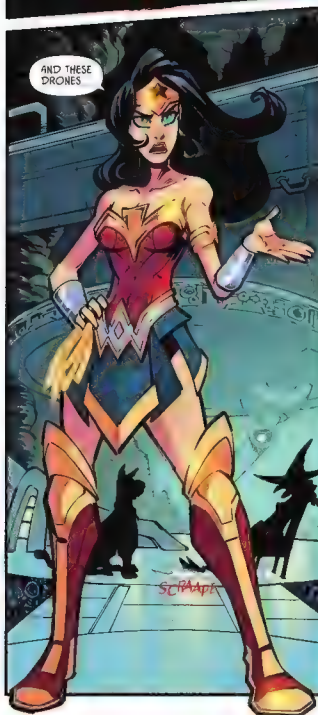




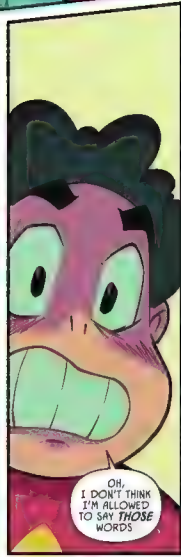






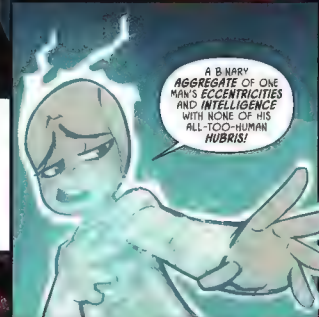








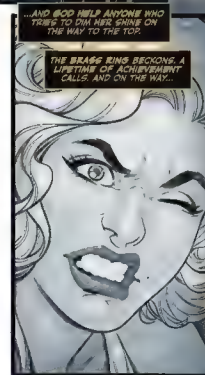
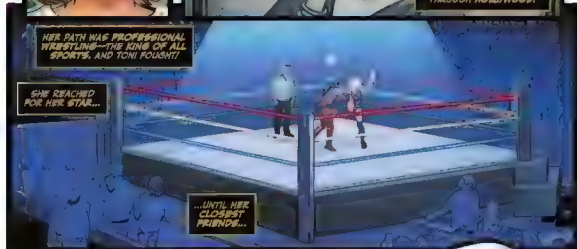
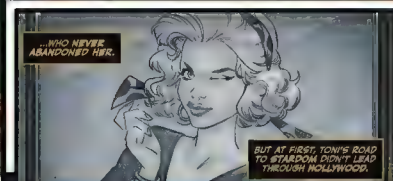
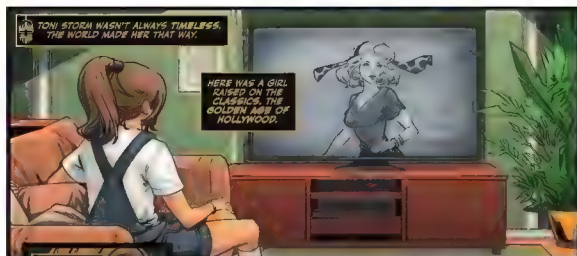
















## ALL IN

DC'S ALL IN INITIATIVE CONTINUES IN NOVEMBER  
WITH SIX MAJOR NEW SERIES LAUNCHES!

Cassandra Cain is back in her first solo series in nearly two decades with *Batgirl* by Tate Brombal and Takeshi Miyazawa. The fan-favorite JSA unites courtesy of Jeff Lemire and Diego Olortegui. Jefferson Pierce—with his super-powered family in tow—is ready for action in *Black Lightning* by Brandon Thomas and Fico Ossio. Renee Montoya takes on a new role in *The Question: All Along the Watchtower* from Alex Segura and Cian Tormey. And it all leads to the return of the World's Greatest Super Heroes in *Justice League Unlimited* from the bestselling *Absolute Power* team of Mark Waid and Dan Mora!

In the Absolute Universe, meet the outlaw Man of Steel in *Absolute Superman* #1 by Jason Aaron and Rafa Sandoval!

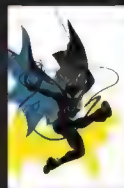
HERE'S YOUR GUIDE TO DC ALL IN THIS NOVEMBER



**Absolute Superman** #1  
cover by Rafa Sandoval



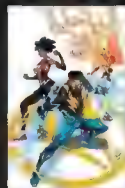
**Justice League Unlimited** #1  
cover by Dan Mora



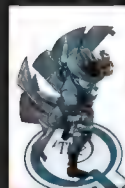
**Batgirl** #1  
cover by  
David Talaz



**JSA** #1  
cover by  
Diego Olortegui



**Black Lightning** #1  
cover by  
Fico Ossio



**The Question: All Along  
the Watchtower** #1  
cover by Cian Tormey

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GET READY FOR THE MATCH OF THE MILLENNIUM:  
**BLACK CANARY VS. LADY SHIVA!**

# BLACK CANARY

## BEST OF THE BEST

Written by  
**TOM KING**

Art by  
**RYAN SOOK**

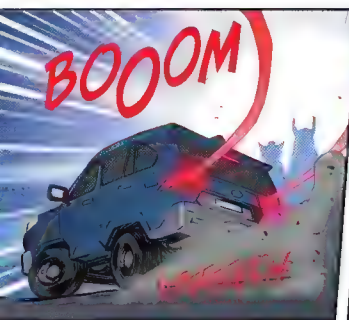
A NEW SIX-ISSUE  
MINISERIES

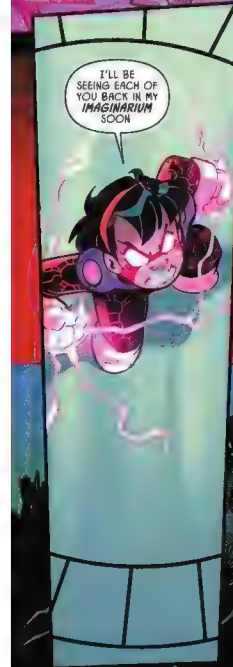
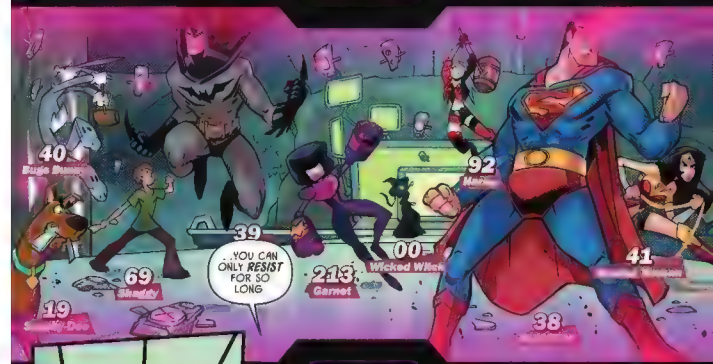
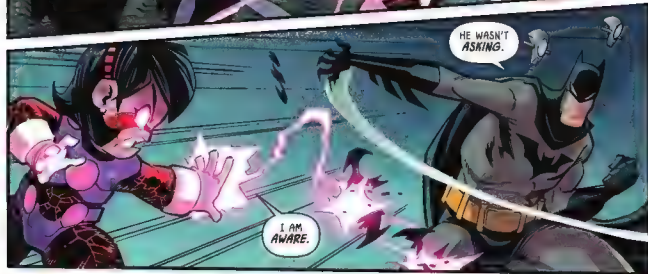
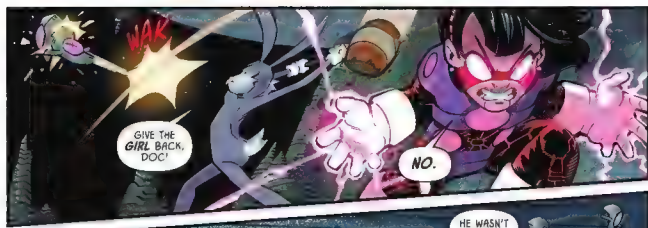


THE FIGHT STARTS  
NOVEMBER!

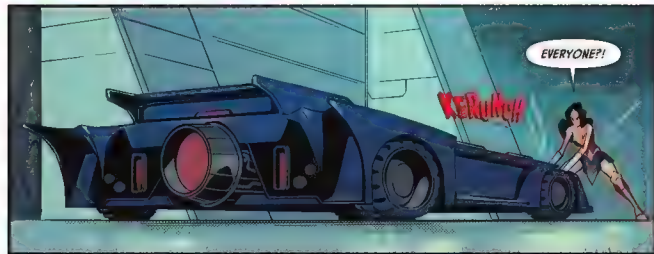


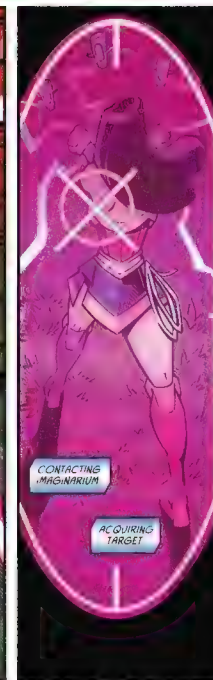
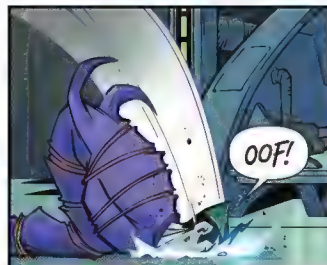
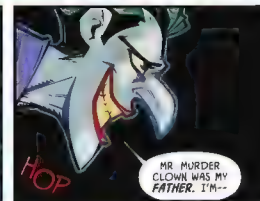




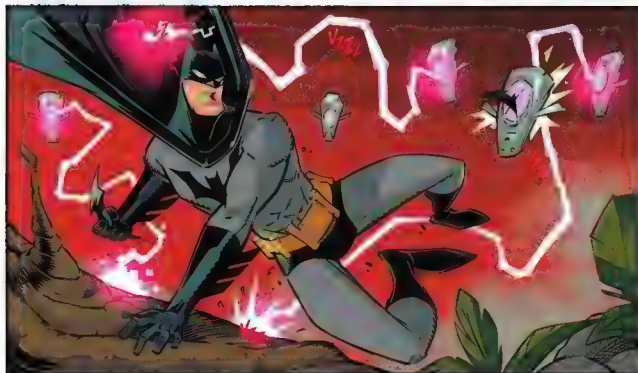


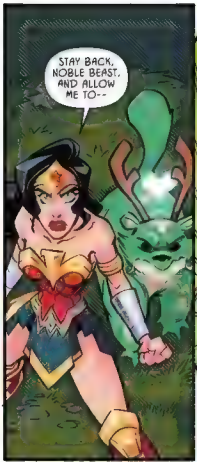




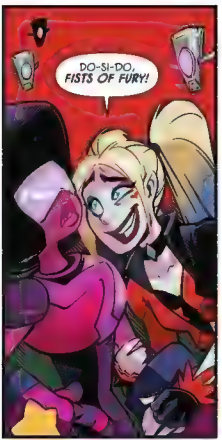












DO-SI-DO,  
FISTS OF FURY!



MY NAME IS  
GARNET AND I AM  
A CRYSTALLINE  
WARRIOR FROM  
BEYOND YOUR  
WORLD.



GESUNDHEIT,  
DOLL.



I DIDN'T  
SNEEZE.

NO THANKS  
I ALREADY  
ATE

ARE YOU EVEN  
LISTENING TO  
ME?



BATTER  
UP!

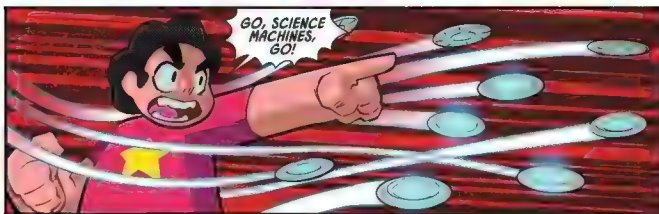


DON'T MIND ME,  
FELLOWS...

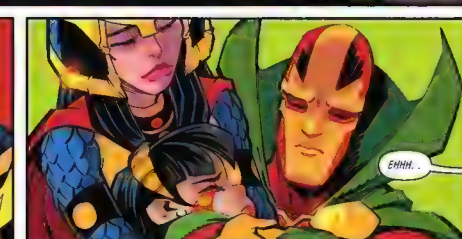


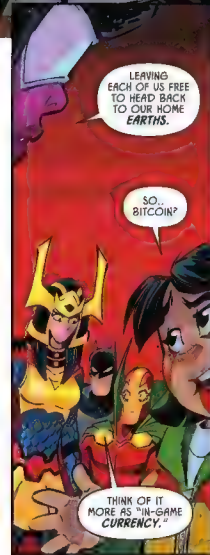
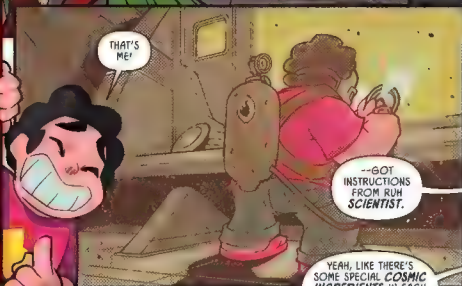
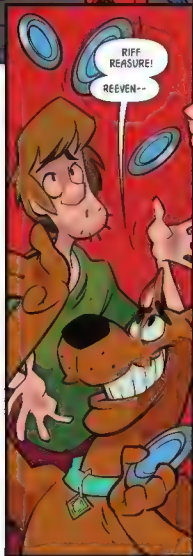
I'LL  
JUST FLY  
SOLO.











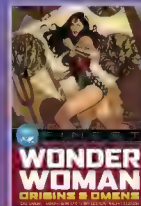




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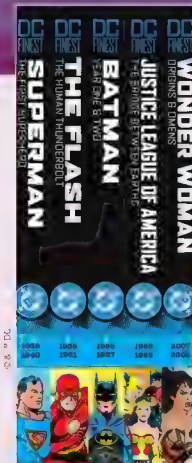
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CATWOMAN:  
LIFE LINES  
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BIRTH OF THE BUNNY  
FEBRUARY 2025



## ALL IN

EXPLORE  
ALL THINGS  
ALL IN!

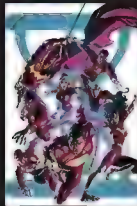
THE DC ALL IN MOMENTUM CONTINUES IN DECEMBER, WITH FOUR NEW SERIES LAUNCHES IN THE DC UNIVERSE AND TWO CAN'T-MISS ONE-SHOTS!

The repercussions of *DC All In Special* are felt in *The New Gods* #1 by writer Ram V and artist Evan Cagle, as Metron receives a cosmos-shattering prophesy in *Challengers of the Unknown* #1 from writer Christopher Cantwell and artist Sean Tanaka, the titular team runs day-to-day operations on the Justice League's Watchtower—and hears with them to save the galaxy! Harvey Dent uses his legal expertise to resolve conflicts between Gotham's villains in *Two-Face* #1 by writer Christian Ward and artist Fábio Versat. Writer Al Ewing and artist Steve Lieber team for an all-new tale of Rex Mason in *Metamorpho: The Element Men* #1! Plus, learn the secrets of recent developments in Metropolis in *Superwoman Special* #1 by writer Joshua Williamson and artist Edwin Galmon, and DC's premier super-team ventures into the next of the parademons in *Justice League Unlimited* #2 by writer Mark Waid and artist Dan Mora.

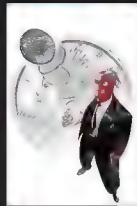
## HERE'S YOUR GUIDE TO DC ALL IN THIS DECEMBER



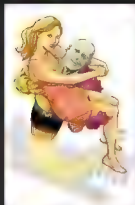
**The New Gods #1**  
cover by Nimri Madala



**Challengers of the Unknown #1**  
cover by Mike Deodato Jr.



**Two-Face #1**  
cover by Baldozar



**Metamorpho: The Element Men #1**  
cover by Steve Lieber



**Superwoman Special #1**  
cover by Edwin Galmon



**Justice League Unlimited #2**  
cover by Dan Mora

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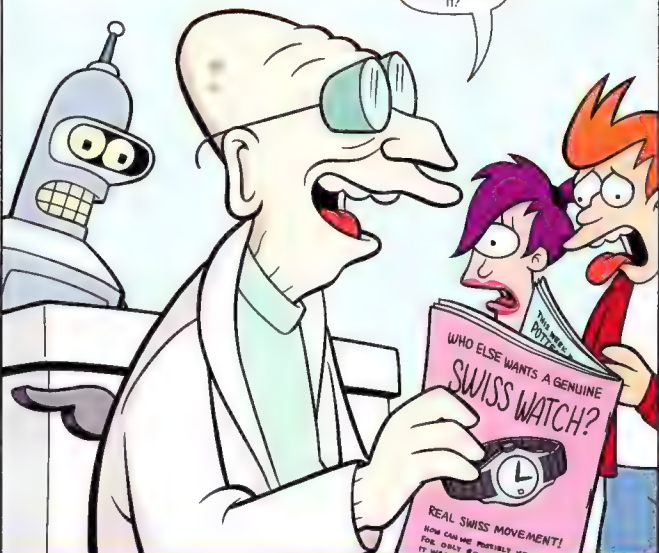
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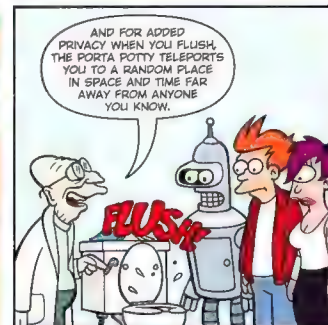
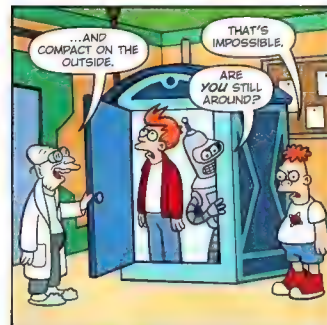
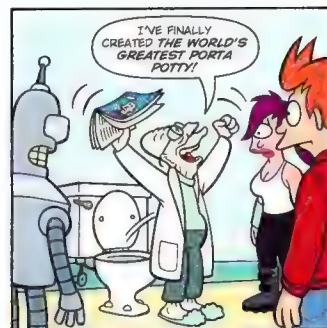
MATT COHENING presents

# DOCTOR WHAT

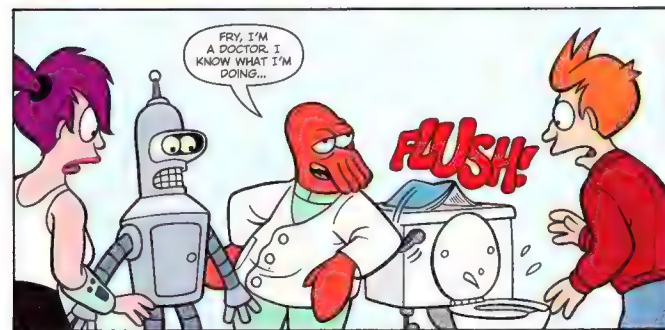
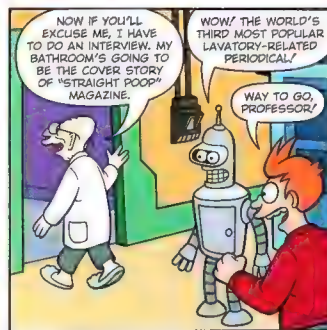
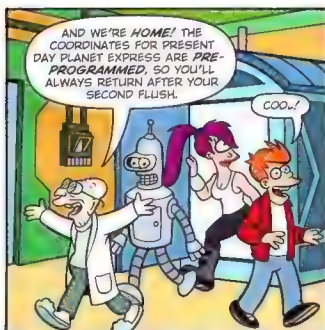
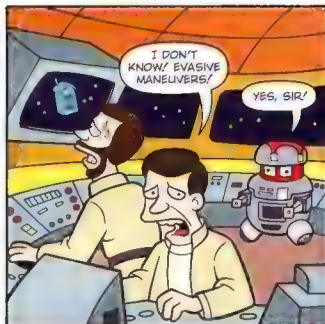
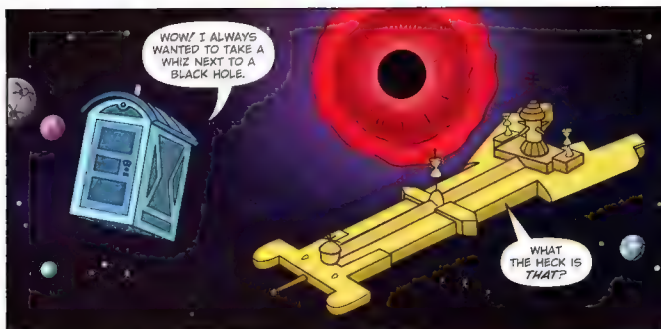
GOOD NEWS, EVERYONE! I'VE FINALLY DONE IT!



**IAN BOOTHBY** SCRIPT  
**MIKE KAZALEH** PENCILS  
**ANDREW PEPDY** INKS  
**NATHAN HAMILL** COLORS  
**KAREN BATES** LETTERS  
**BILL MORRISON** EDITOR

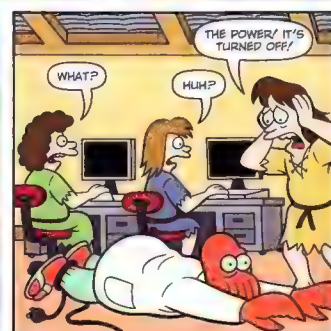
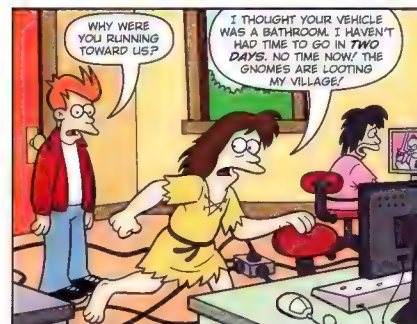
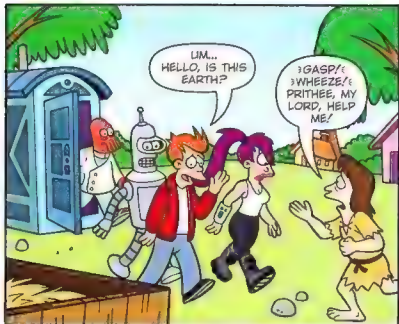


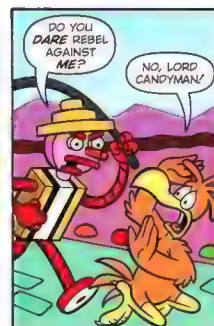
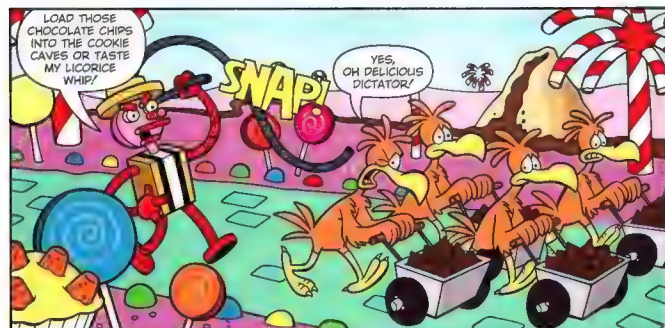
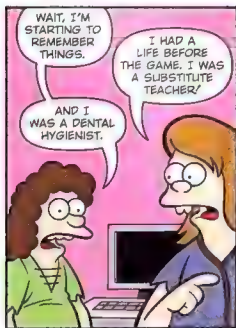




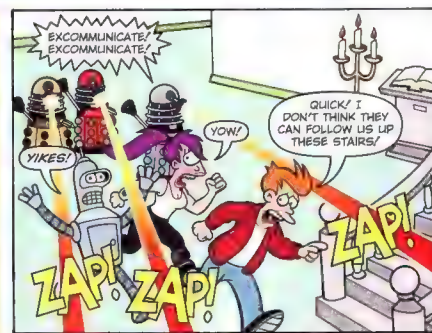
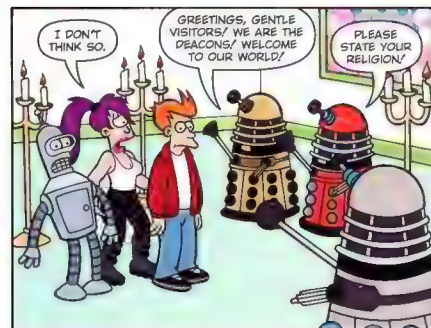
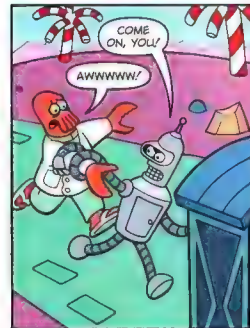
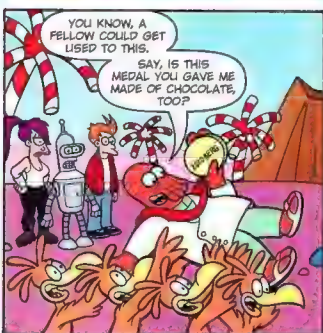
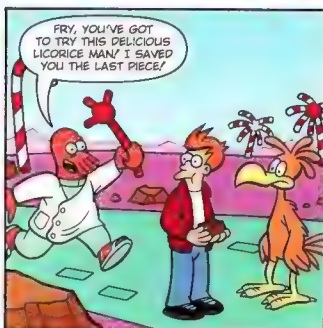


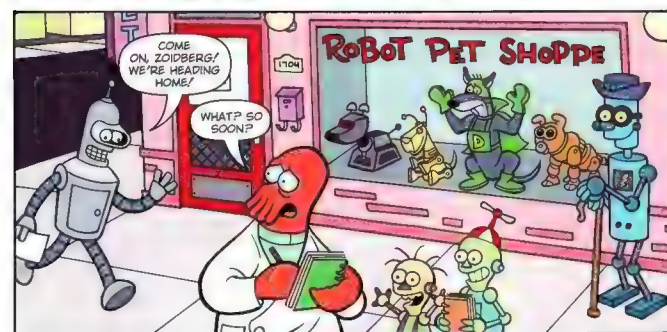
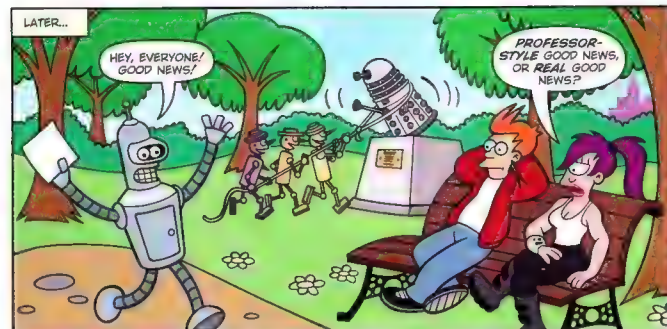
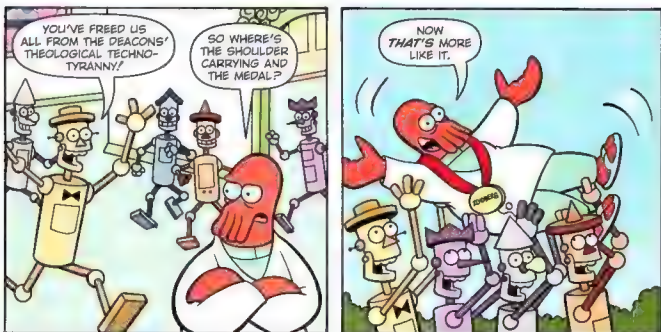
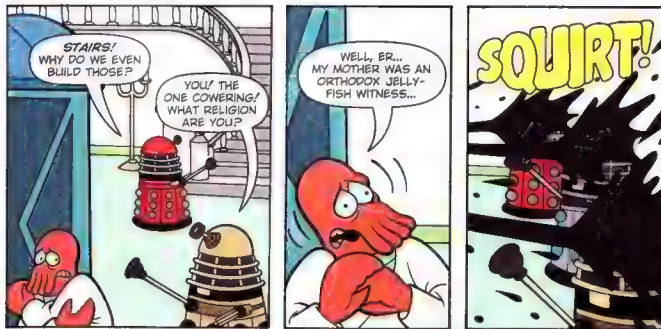




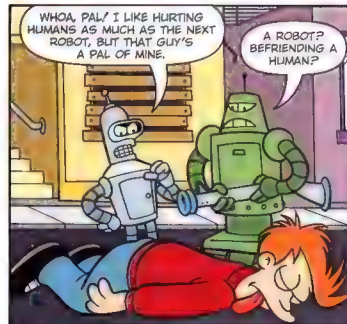
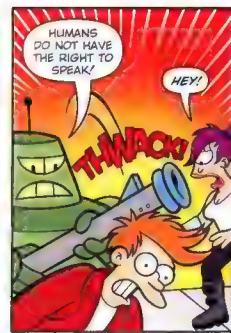
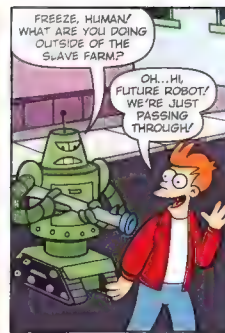
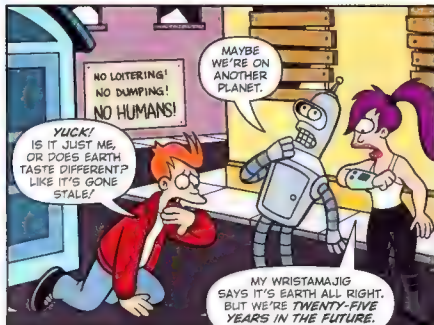
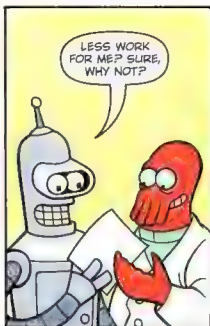


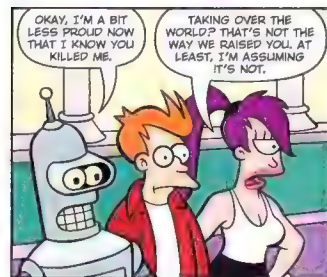
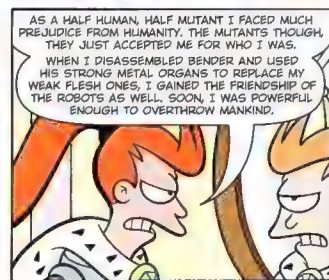
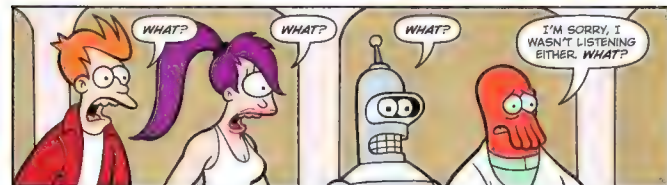
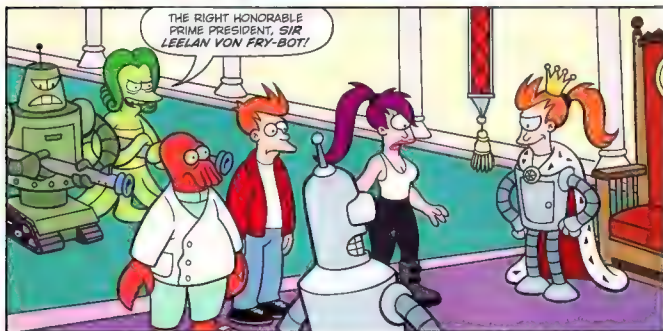
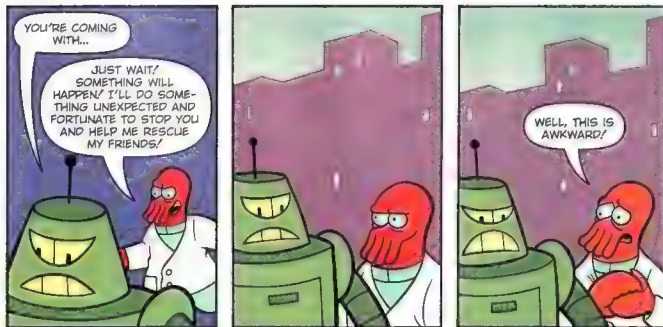




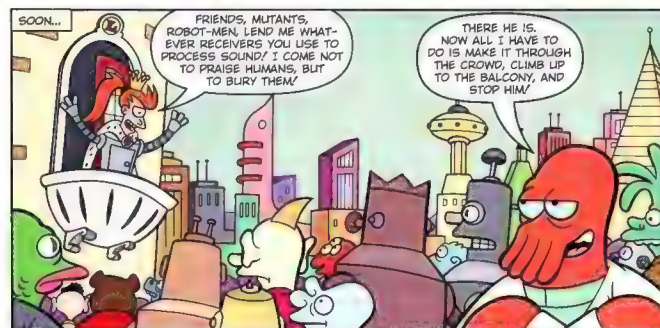
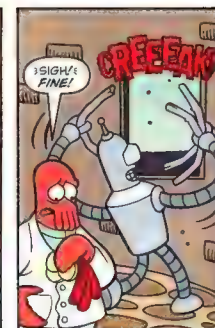
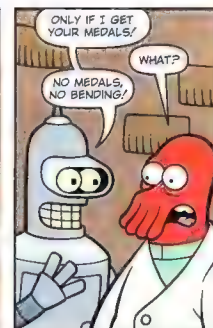
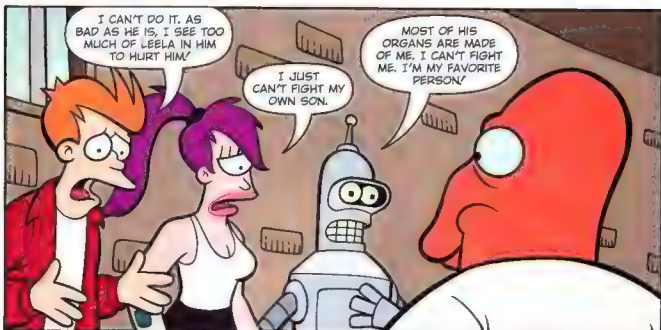
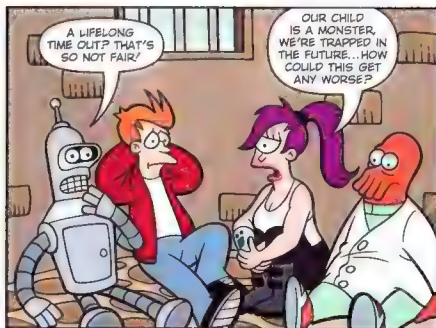


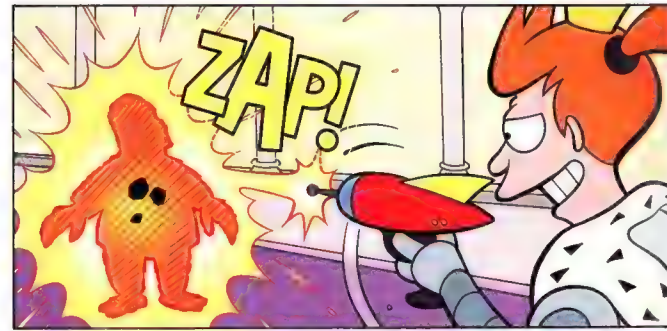
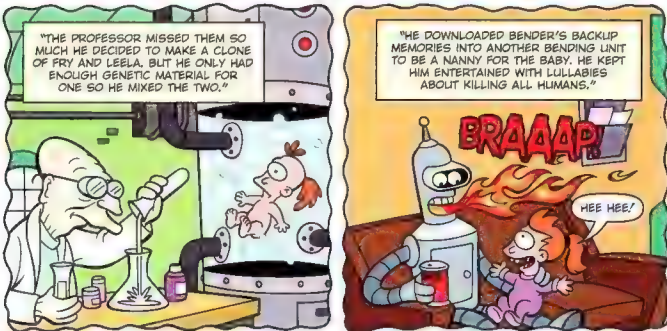
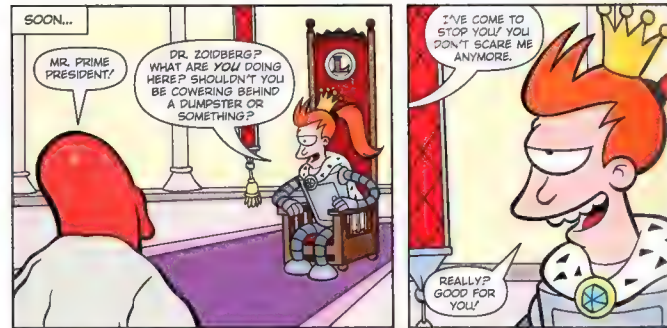
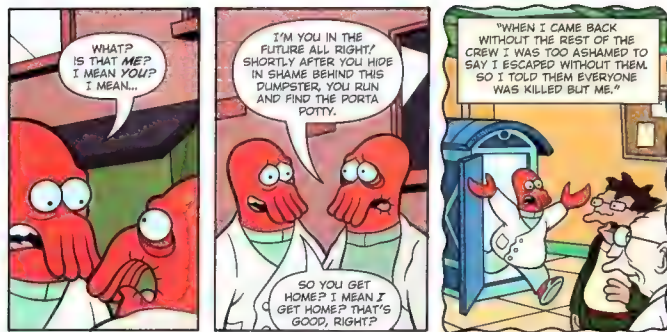




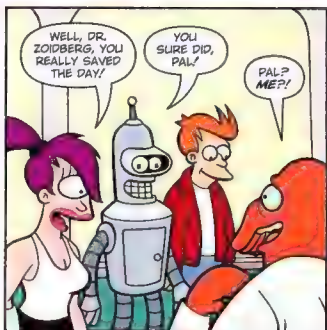
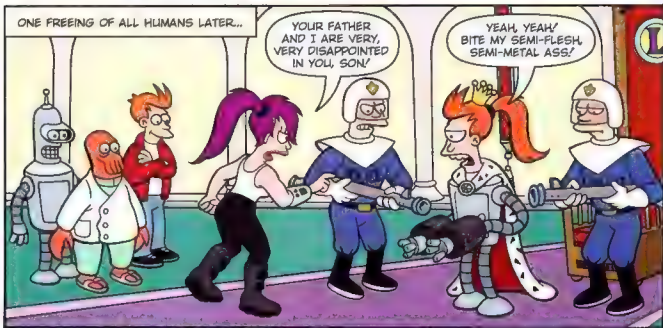
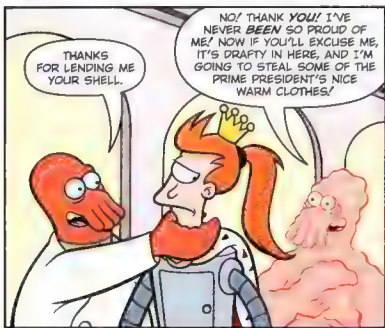


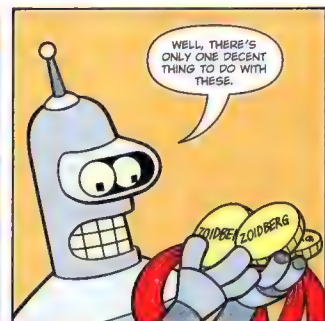
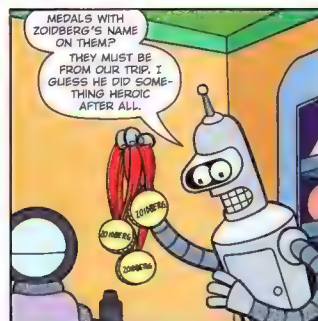
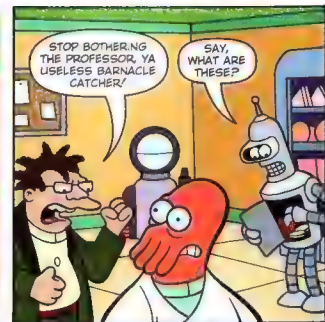
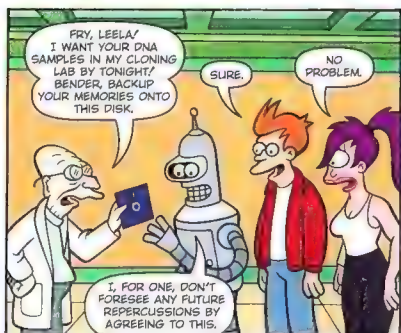
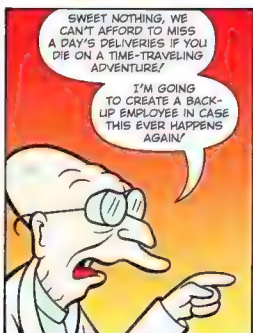












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# CHILD'S PLAY

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4



# INNOVATION™

## 1991 -- Leap Year Comes Early!

"Oh, boy!"

NBC's Emmy Award-winning TV show *Quantum Leap* has been renewed for its third season. That comes as especially good news to us. Y'see, through special arrangement with the folks at Universal Studios, we're premiering a *QUANTUM LEAP* comic book this month.

It'll be a full-color, painted, \$2.50 monthly series. George Broderick, Jr., who's helping me "man the helm" on both *LOST IN SPACE* and *HERO ALLIANCE*, is running the show on this one. (It started back when he signed on at Innovation Publishing a year ago as our art director. His two dream projects to work on were *Popeye* and *Quantum Leap*. I couldn't get him the former, so I got him the latter.)

Unlike tying up all the loose ends, like we've been doing on *CHILD'S PLAY: THE SERIES* and *NIGHTMARES ON ELM STREET*, or revamping and updating and developing backgrounds, like we're doing with *LOST IN SPACE*, we're keeping *QUANTUM LEAP* just like the TV show. "If it ain't broke, don't fix it," right?

At the moment, George seems to be one happy individual, lining up writers for the series' initial 12-issue run. "I'm writing the first issue and most of the 'teaser leaps,'" he was explaining, "to tailor stories toward what the writers can do best. When they take on an assignment, working from a surprise 'leap,' it puts them into a disoriented state going in -- much like what Dr. Sam Beckett is going through."

Issue #2 is being written by *HERO ALLIANCE*'s own Bob Ingersoll, and #3 is being worked on right now by *Jeopardy!* writer Steven Dorfman.

When I suggested a story where Sam leaps into Al's body, while Al is in the middle of an argument with several of his ex-wives at once, George threatened to lock me into my office with Jim Elliott -- he smokes like crazy, I don't -- until I come out with a story. So I guess I'd better plan on doing that one.

Writers Terry Collins, James Schlosser, and David Lawrence are all working on *QUANTUM LEAP* ideas, as well.

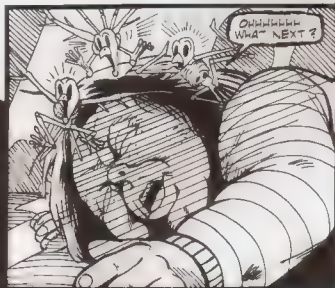
The first two issues' covers are brilliantly painted by someone you've never heard of: C. Winston Taylor, a Hollywood movie poster artist -- easily one of the best, most professional people I've ever worked with. Winston-Taylor-in-the-super-king-size is *greeeeenat*.

And one of *HERO ALLIANCE* fandom's favorite artists, Mark Jones, is illustrating *QUANTUM LEAP*, which'll have some snazzy airbrush coloring by the too-busy-for-words Scott Rockwell.

We're looking at the book appearing in stores in mid-to-late July, before the start of the new season. And hey -- wasn't that a *killer cliffhanger* ending to last season?

"Oh, boy," indeed!

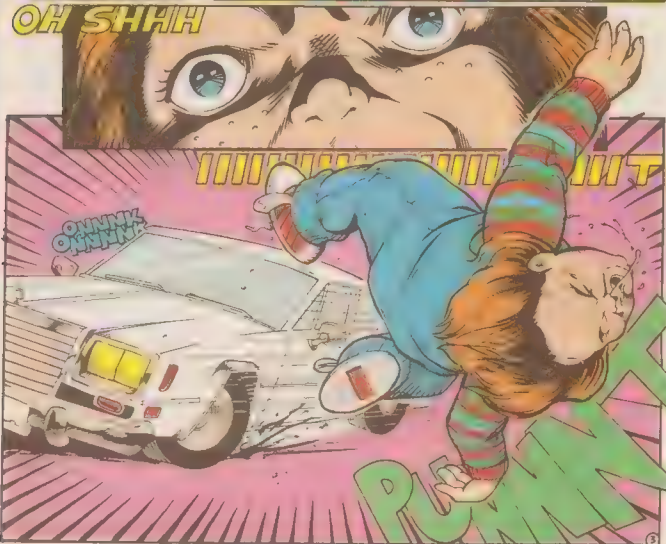
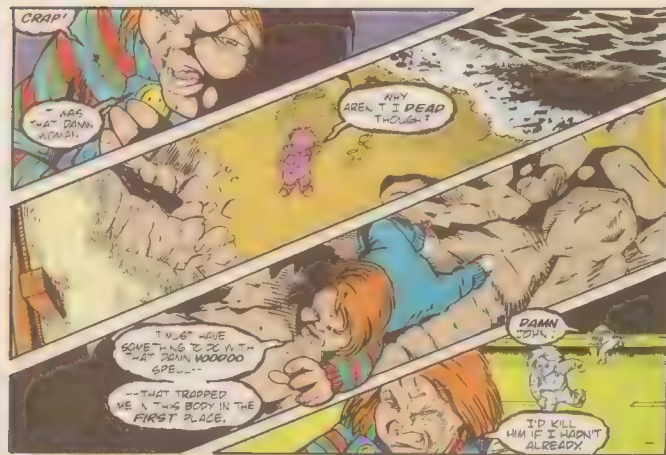
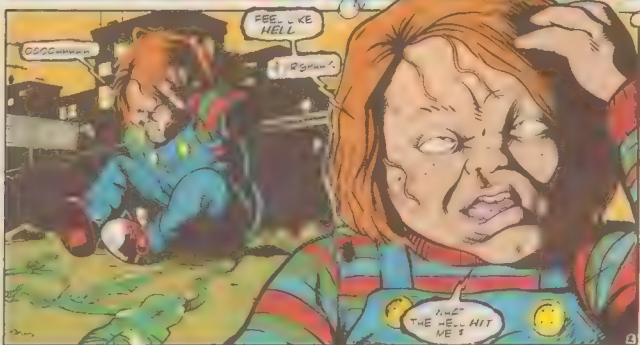
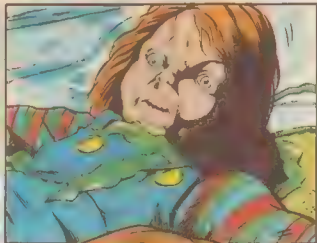
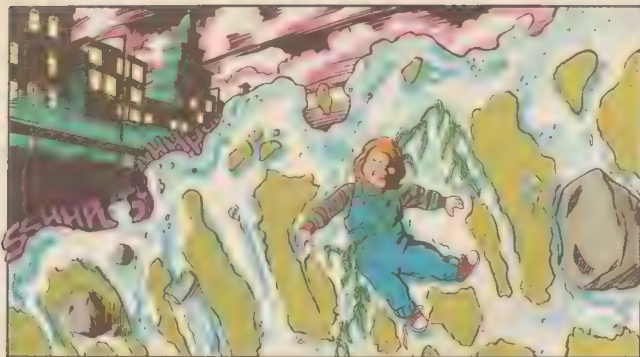
-- David Campiti  
July, 1991



ANDY MANGELS • BRANDON MCKINNEY • MICHAEL DEMING • VICKIE WILLIAMS • MICHELLE BOGGS • DAVID CAMPITI  
ARTIST • PENCILER • INKER • LETTERER • COLORIST • EDITOR

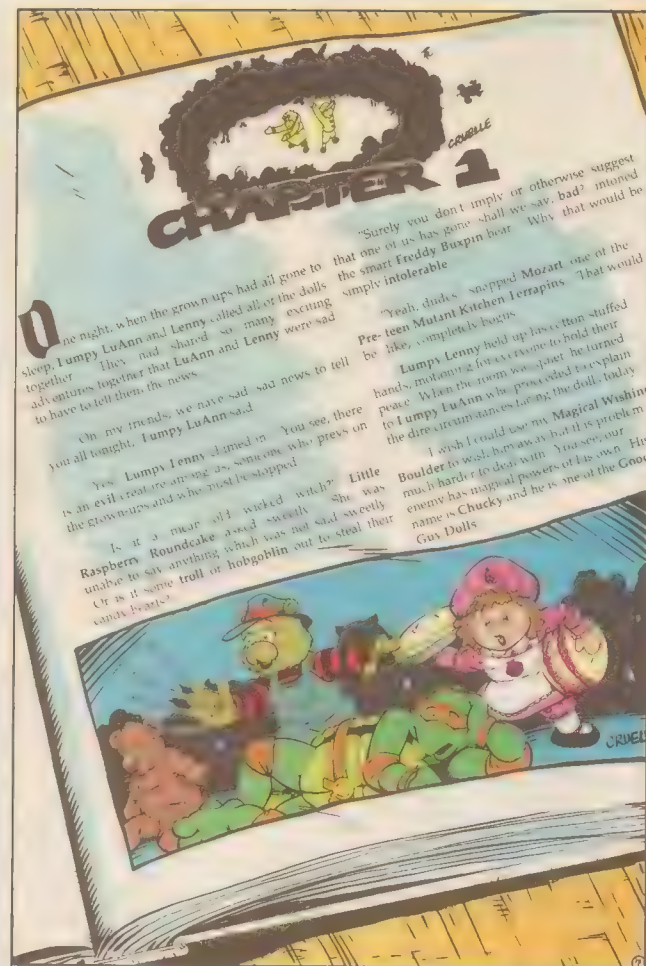
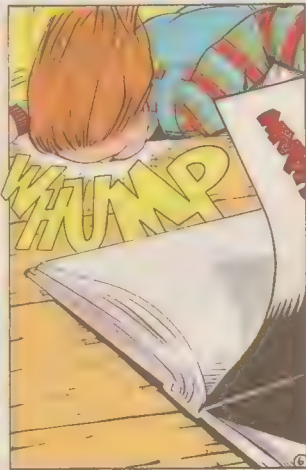
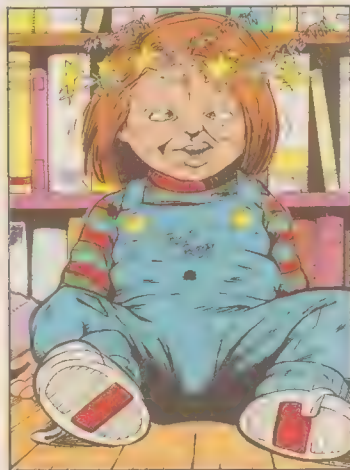
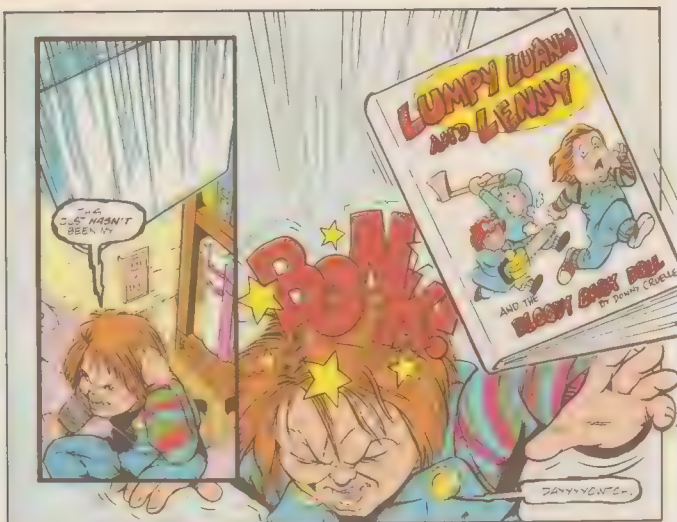
WITH AFFECTION AND APOLOGIES TO JOHNNY GRUELLE.

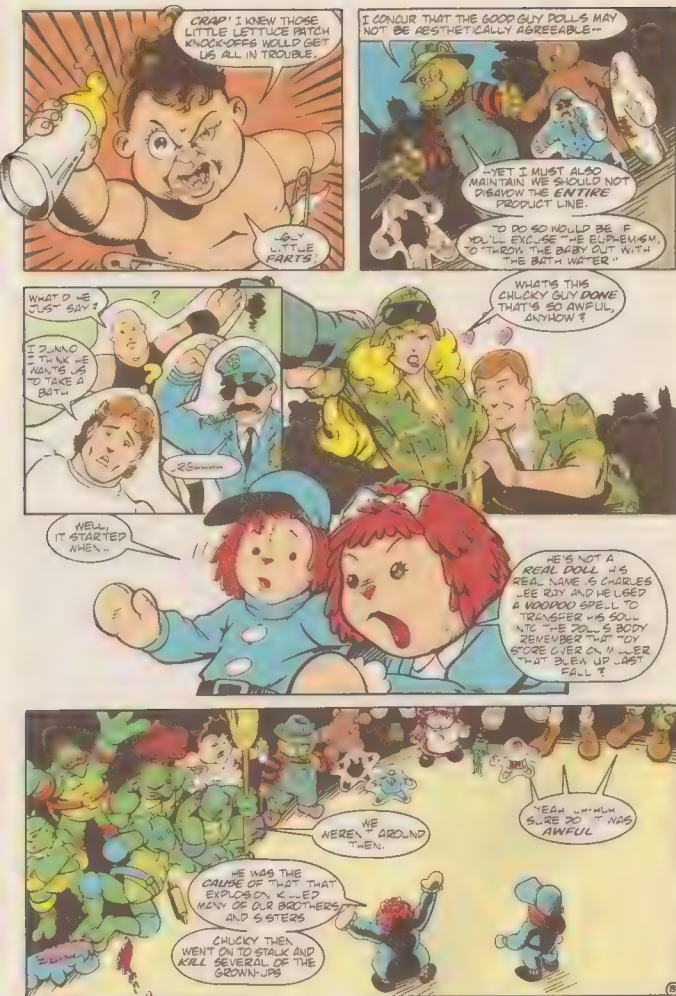






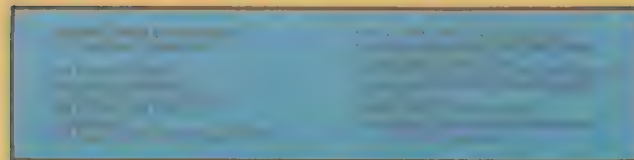






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#1 - Legend reloaded, w/ new Sears-Lim art  
First printing, sold out from publisher (\$20.00)  
#1 - First printing, signed by author (\$25.00)  
#1 - Second printing, sold out from the publisher (\$5.00)  
#3 - Lim art. Sold out from publisher (\$5.00)

#### HERO ALLIANCE MONTHLY

(Full Color) All-new regular series  
#1 - #5 - All-new series! (\$3.00 each)  
#7 - #16 - The legend continues! (\$2.00 each)  
#17 - New direction, Brian Steinfreese cover painting! (\$1.95)  
ANNUAL #1 - Paul Smith art and cover! Sold out from the publisher (\$15.00)

#### HERO ALLIANCE: HARD COVER (Full Color)

Limited edition of 1500 copies  
#1 - Signed and numbered by the author.  
Sold out from the publisher! (\$24.95)

#### HERO ALLIANCE (Full Color) Published by Wonder Color

#1 - Warehouse find! The original, long out of print! Special! (\$2.50)

#### HERO ALLIANCE: THE GRAPHIC NOVEL (Full Color)

#1 - Sold out from the publisher! (\$12.95)  
#1 - Some water damage. Special. (\$5.00)

#### HERO ALLIANCE: TEAM POSTER (Full Color)

#1 - 2 x 3, by Ron Lim & Bill Anderson! (\$6.95)

#### HERO ALLIANCE & JUSTICE MACHINE: IDENTITY CRISIS (Full Color)

#1 - Michel Delverence art! (\$2.75)

#### INNOVATION PREVIEW SPECIAL (Full Color)

#1 - Scarce! Sears, Lim, Truman (\$5.00)  
#7 - Preview of Piers Anthony's Incarnations of Immortality: ON A PALE HORSE! (\$2.50)  
#11 - Preview of LOST IN SPACE! (\$2.50)

#### INNOVATION SOLICITATIONS (Full Color)

#1 - As above, but never sold in stores! (\$7.50)

#### INNOVATION SPECTACULAR (Full Color)

Sold out from the publisher!  
#1 - Stunning HERO ALLIANCE! (\$5.00)  
#2 - (\$3.50)

#### JACK FROST

#1 - From the artist of Rocky Horror! (\$2.00)  
#2 - Detectives vs vampires! (\$2.00)

#### LOST IN SPACE (Full Color)

#1 - It's back. It's not what you'd expect! By Campiti/Newell/Okamoto! (\$2.50)

#### THE JUSTICE MACHINE (Full Color)

Sold out from the publisher!

#### MINI-SERIES

#1, #2, #3 - (\$2.25 each)  
Regular series  
#1 through #7 - (\$2.25 each)  
#2 - \$2.50  
#1 - Byrne cover! (\$3.00)

#### KAMIKAZE CAT

#1 - Behind-the-scenes industry scandals, for those who know how to look! (\$2.00)

#### LAWRENCE & LIM'S EX-MUTANTS

#1 - First printing! Ron Lim 'Good Girl' art! Warehouse find! Special! (\$3.00)  
#2 - #5 - Ron Lim art! (\$2.50 each)  
#6 - The only authorized 1st printing! Lim art! Scarce! (\$8.00)  
#7 - Last authorized issue. 1st printing! (\$5.00)

#### LEGENDS OF THE STARGRAZERS

#1 - Bootleg issue! The first produced without authorization! (\$10.00)  
#1 - Special Ed., new Ron Lim pages! (\$2.50)

#### LAWRENCE & LIM'S EX-MUTANTS: ERIN MINI-SERIES

#1 - Authorized first printing! Rare! (\$20.00)

#### LAWRENCE & LIM'S THE NEW HUMANS

#1 - Rare! Ron Lim art! (\$10.00)  
#2 - Ron Lim cover! (\$10.00)  
#3 - Scarce! Lim bondage cover! (\$10.00)

#### LEGENDS OF THE STARGRAZERS

(Full Color) The finest 'Good Girl' art this side of Dave Stevens! Issues are sold out from the publisher!  
#1 - Adam Hughes cover! Thompson/Elliott art! Sexy! (\$3.00)

#2 - Hughes, Thompson/Elliott, Yeates art! Julie in the sonic shower! (\$3.00)

#3 - Hughes, Thompson/Elliott, hot bondage issue! (\$3.00)

#4 - Hughes, Thompson/Elliott, Yeates art! Bradbury homage! (\$3.00)

#5 - Hughes, Thompson/Elliott, Touda art! Barba homage! (\$3.00)

#6 - Sensational spanking cover by Adam Hughes! Thompson/Elliott art! (\$3.00)

#### LEGENDS OF THE STARGRAZERS: PORFOLIO

Seven art-sized plates by Adam Hughes. Now out of print! (\$14.95)

#### LEGENDS OF THE STARGRAZERS: POSTER (Full Color)

#1 - By Thompson/Elliott! (\$6.95)

#### LEGENDS OF THE STARGRAZERS: GRAPHIC NOVELS (Full Color)

#1 - 100 pages, Hughes cover! (\$9.95)  
#2 - Sexy Thompson/Elliott cover! (\$9.95)

#### THE LUNATIC FRINGE (Full Color)

#1 - #2 - Stetema art! (\$2.00 each)

#### MANGLE TANGLE TALES (Full Color)

#1 - Intro by Harlan Ellison! (\$2.95)

#### THE MAZE AGENCY (Full Color)

#8 - Art by Adam Hughes! (\$3.50)  
#9 - Stunning ELLERY QUEEN! Adam Hughes art! (\$3.50)  
#10 - #23 (All-new, 2.50 each)

SPECIAL #1 - Williamson, Alan Davis, Rick Magyar art! (\$2.75)

ANNUAL #1 - Eisner homage issue. Art by Ploog and Loebe! (\$2.75)

#### MAZE BOOK: THE MAZE AGENCY COLLECTION

#1 - Comics' first four issues revised and reprinted, plus new Adam Hughes art and cover! Special. (\$4.95)

#### NEON CITY

#1 - Stunning futureviews, computer-created art! (\$2.50)

#### NEWSTRALIA (Full Color)

#1 - From creator of *HauteWorld*! Tam Truman art. Sold out from publisher! (\$12.00)  
#2 through #5 - (\$2.25 each)

#### NIGHTMARE (Full Color)

#1 - Story and art by Alex Nino! (\$1.95)

#### NIGHTMARES ON LIM STREET (Full Color)

#1 - A new 'Sugar' trade paperback cover painting! \$2.50

#### NINJA-BOTS SUPER SPECIAL

#1 - Ye gods! Special! (\$1.50)

#### OVERTURE

#1 - #2 - Humor. Recommended! (\$2.25 each)

#### Piers Anthony's Incarnations of Immortality: ON A PALE HORSE (Full Color)

#1 - 52 pages, painted by Okamoto! (\$4.95)

#### POWER FACTOR (Full Color)

#1 - #3 - Innovation's version (\$2.25 each)  
#1 - SPECIAL - All-new action! Sexy cover! (\$2.75)

#### POWER FACTOR (Full Color)

#1 - Wonder Color's version. Special! (\$2.00)

#### PROFESSOR DM! (Full Color)

#1 - Adventures from 'down under'! (\$2.50)

#### SCARAMOUCH

#1 - #2 - Weird horror, like 'What if Stephen King had written *Grease*?' (\$2.25 each)

#### SCARLET KISS THE VAMPIRE

#1 - 52 pp! High school girls as vampires! Jackson Guice cover! (\$3.00)

#### SHERLOCK HOLMES

#1 - 'A Study In Scarlet' Graphic Novel. Sold out from the publisher! (\$8.95)

#### SOULQUEST (Full Color) Graphic Novel

#1 - In the *Quest* tradition! (\$3.95)

#### TERIAFORMERS (Full Color)

#1 - Kelley (Deadman) Jones art! (\$1.50)  
#2 - Special! (\$1.50)

#### Terry Pratchett's THE COLOUR OF MAGIC (Full Color)

#1 - Beautiful art! (\$15.00) Completely sold out from the publisher!

#2 - #3 All new! (\$2.50 each)

#### TIMDRIFTER

#1 - #3 - Time-tripping from Gerard Jones, author of *Justice League* and *The Trouble With Girls*! Pulp-style cover paintings by Mike Okamoto! (\$2.25 each)

#### TORCHY

#1 - Olivia De Berardinis cover! (\$1.50)  
#2 - Classic Bill Ward art, Matt Thompson cover painting! (\$2.50)  
#3 - Cover by Olivia! (\$2.50)

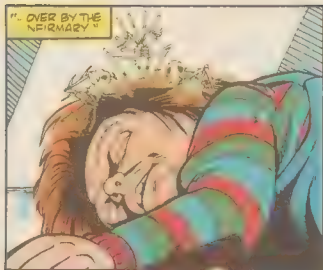
#### VOYAGES (Color and B&W trade pbk.)

#1 - Brunner, Chaykin, Muth, and more! Sold out from publisher! Some scuffs! (\$12.95)

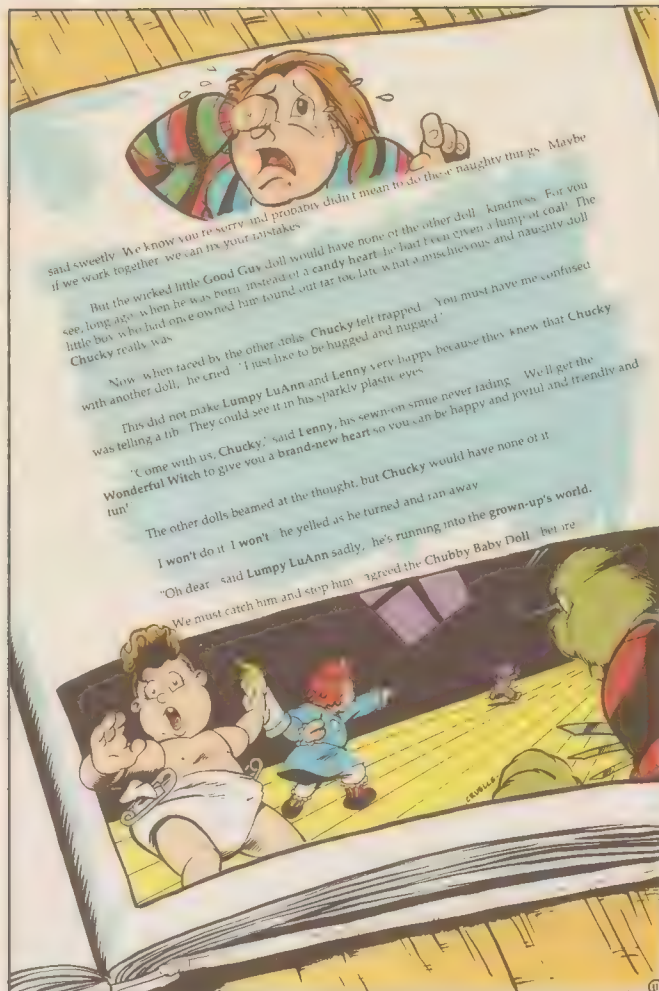
#### WALT KELLY'S SANTA CLAUS ADVENTURES (Full Color) Trade Pbk.

#1 - All ages, by the creator of *Pogo*! (\$6.95)





YOU HAVE BEEN "RED" BY A TRIAL OF YOUR PEERS AND BEEN FOUND GUILTY. YOU ARE HEREBY SENTENCED TO BE IMMEDIATELY PLASTICIZED AND OTHERWISE DESTROYED.



But the wicked little Good Gus doll would have none of the other doll's kindness. For you see, long ago when he was born, instead of a candy heart, he had been given a lump of coal! The little boy who had once owned him found out far too late what a mischievous and naughty doll Chucky really was.

Now, when faced by the other dolls, Chucky felt trapped. You must have me confused with another doll, he cried. I just like to be hugged and nuzzled.

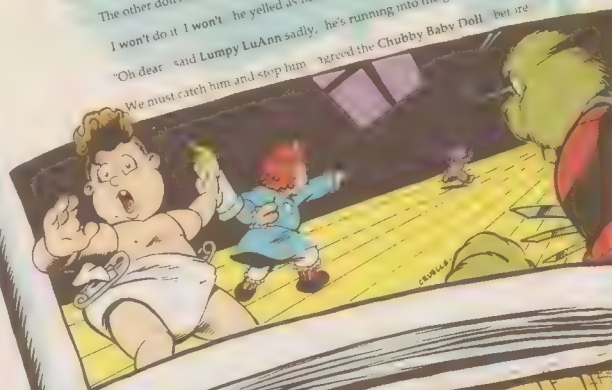
This did not make Lumpy LuAnn and Lenny very happy because they knew that Chucky was telling a fib. They could see it in his sparkly plastic eyes.

"Come with us, Chucky," said Lenny, his sewn-on smile never fading. We'll get the Wonderful Witch to give you a brand-new heart so you can be happy and jovial and friendly and run!

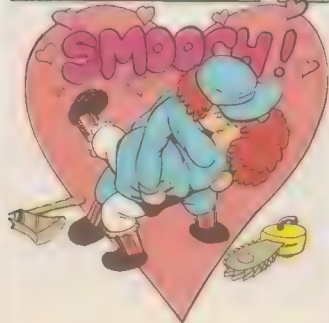
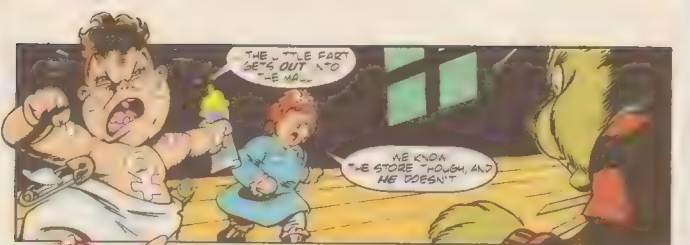
The other dolls beamed at the thought, but Chucky would have none of it. I won't do it! I won't! he yelled as he turned and ran away.

"Oh dear," said Lumpy LuAnn sadly, he's running into the grown-up's world.

We must catch him and stop him," agreed the Chubby Baby Doll. But...





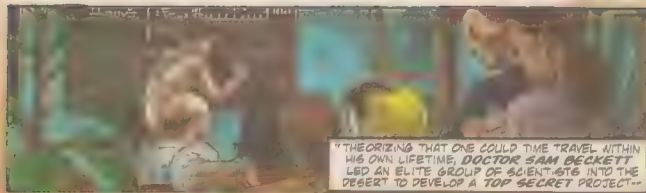


JULY, 1991

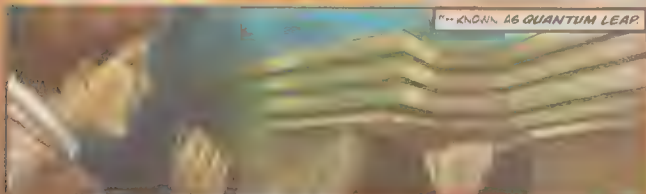
LEAP YEAR  
COMES EARLY

INNOVATION

A Special Preview...



"THEORIZING THAT ONE COULD TIME TRAVEL WITHIN HIS OWN LIFETIME, DOCTOR SAM BECKETT LED AN ELITE GROUP OF SCIENTISTS INTO THE DESERT TO DEVELOP A TOP SECRET PROJECT--



"...KNOW AS QUANTUM LEAP

"PRESSURED TO PROVE HIS THEORIES, OR LOSE GOVERNMENT FUNDING, DOCTOR BECKETT PREMATURELY STEPPED INTO THE ACCELERATOR CHAMBER--



"--AND VANISHED



"HE AWOKES TO FIND HIMSELF IN THE PAST, SUFFERING FROM PARTIAL AMNESIA AND FACING A MIRROR IMAGE THAT WAS NOT HIS OWN



"FORTUNATELY, CONTACT WITH HIS OWN TIME IS MAINTAINED THROUGH BRAINWAVE TRANSMISSIONS WITH AL, THE PROTECT OBSERVER."

US MAIL

"...WHO APPEARS IN THE FORM OF A HOLOGRAM THAT ONLY DOCTOR BECKETT CAN SEE AND HEAR



"TRAPPED IN THE PAST, DOCTOR BECKETT FINDS HIMSELF LEAPING FROM LIFE TO LIFE--

"PUTTING THEM RIGHT THAT ONCE WENT WRONG"

"--AND HOPING EACH TIME HE'LL FIND HIS NEXT LEAD

"...WILL BE THE LEAD HOME"



# QUANTUM LEAP

1

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**OH, BOY! IT'S A COMIC BOOK.**

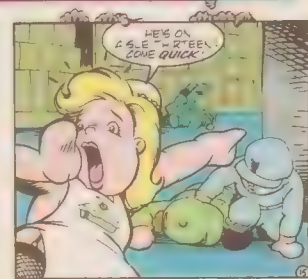
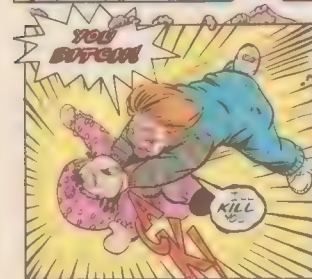
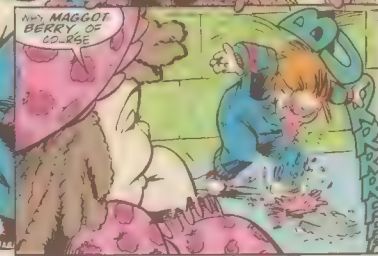
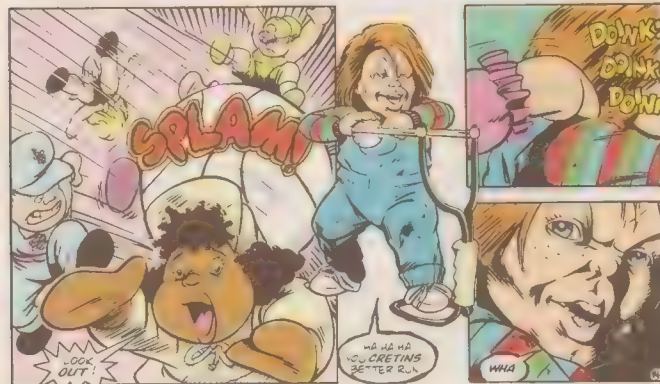
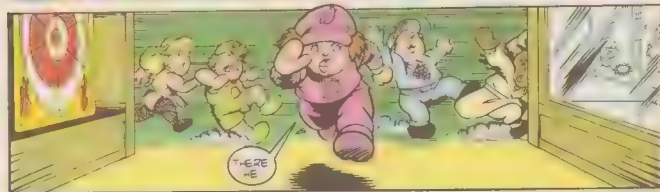
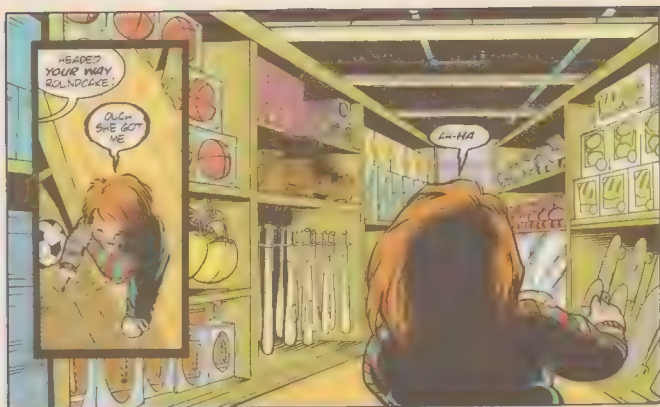
By George Broderick, Jr. & Mark Jones. Cover by C. Winston Taylor.

**INNOVATION™**

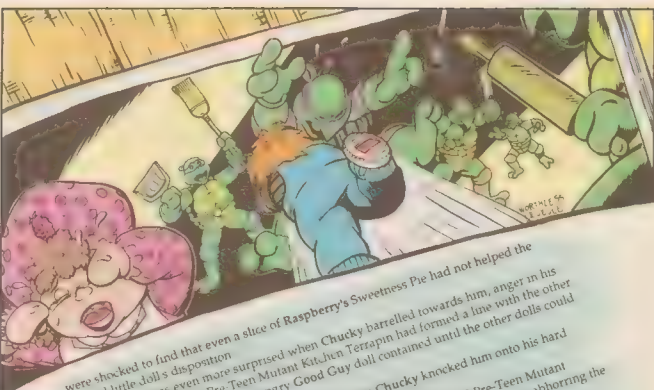
The series that spans over **four decades** (in no particular order)!  
Catch the full-color comic book premiere at San Diego Con '91!

Read more **FREE** comics on [ReadComicOnline](http://ReadComicOnline.com)









were shocked to find that even a slice of Raspberry's Sweetness Pie had not helped the wicked little doll's disposition.

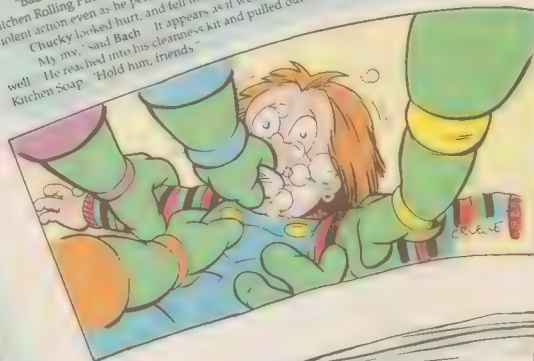
Handel was even more surprised when Chucky barrelled towards him, anger in his button shiny eyes. The Pre-Teen Mutant Kitchen Tarrapin had formed a lunge with the other dolls could Tarrapins, intent on keeping the angry Good Guy doll contained until the other dolls could arrive.

"Watch out, dudes," Handel yelled, just before Chucky knocked him onto his hard shell.

"Bad form, Charles," said Tchaikovsky, as he hefted his special Pre-Teen Mutant Kitchen Rolling Pin. He calmly whopped Chucky in the stomach with the pin, abhorring the violent action even as he performed it.

Chucky looked hurt, and fell to the ground, yelling naughty words.

"My my," said Bach. It appears as if we'll have to wash his mouth out with soap as well. He reached into his cleanliness kit and pulled out a soapy bar of Pre-Teen Mutant Kitchen Soap. "Hold him, friends."



Welcome To A  
HERO ALLIANCE  
Summer....

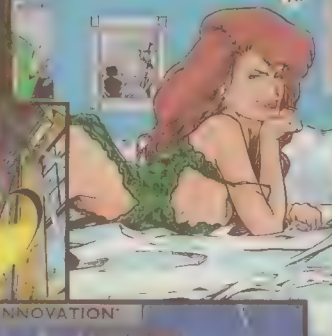
HERO ALLIANCE #16  
Prelude to A New Direction

SENTRY SPECIAL #1  
CORSAIR BY THE SEAS

HERO ALLIANCE  
QUARTERLY #1  
GEORGE PET

INNOVATION  
HERO  
ALLIANCE

16



Full-Color Excitement --  
ON SALE NOW!

INNOVATION

The Best...From The Best





**Anne Rice's THE MASTER OF RAMPLING GATE #1** -- A full-color graphic album of unspeakable horror by the author of *THE VAMPIRE LESTAT*! Adapted by James Schlosser and Calleen Doran. Cover painting by John Bolton!

**Anne Rice's THE VAMPIRE COMPANION #2** -- All-new full-color special! Features a new interview with Anne Rice, plus special previews of her three new Innovation projects. Cover painting by Daerick Gross!

**Anne Rice's THE VAMPIRE LESTAT #10** -- The fully-painted adaptation of the best-seller continues! Adapted by Faye Perovich -- and painted by Daerick Gross and Richard Pace. Cover painting by John Bolton!

**CHILD'S PLAY: THE SERIES #3** -- Full-color series! New stories beyond the movie! "M.A.R.K.E.D.: Mother Against Rampant Kill-Happy Evil Dolls" re-introduces and frames Karen Barclay, with Chucky guilty and on the loose! Written by Andy Mangels -- and illustrated by Raine Szramski and Mike Witherby. Cover by Darick Robertson and Mike Witherby!

**DESERT STORM: SEND HUSSEIN TO HELL #1** -- A sensational selection of Innovation's finest moments, starting off with an all-new war story. Written by Charles Marshall -- and illustrated by Ernie Stiner and Mike Witherby. Plus: "Iraqi & Abdulwinkle" by George Broderick and Don Martinez. Wrap-around cover by Mark Jones and Mike Witherby!

**Gene Wolfe's THE SHADOW OF THE TORTURER #1** -- Six-issue full-color adaptation of the award-winning first "Book of the New Sun!" Adapted by Scott Rockwell and Ted Naifeh. Cover painting by Sandy Collera!

**HERO ALLIANCE #17** -- Full-color super-team series! Beginning: An all-new direction for America's favorite independent super-team. "Promises To Keep" is by David Campbell, J. Trent Pearson, and Michael Christeen. Wrap-around cover painting by Brian Stelfreeze!

**HERO ALLIANCE QUARTERLY #1** -- Full-color, no-dads format! George Perez, Matt Thompson, J. Trent Pearson, Mark Jones, and others offer two terrific tales plus a full-color portfolio! Wrap-around cover by George Perez!

## INNOVATION

### Comics On Sale This Month!

**INNOVATION SUMMER FUN SPECIAL #1** -- 100 spectacular pages starring some of Innovation's most popular characters. **LEGENDS OF THE STARGRAZERS** sexy swimsuit cover by Matt Thompson and Randy Elliott!

**John Bolton's Posters: Signed Editions. THEATRE OF VAMPIRES** and **THE VAMPIRE WOLF ATTACK!** Both are now available -- and each is limited to just 500 signed-and- numbered copies!

**THE JUSTICE MACHINE #7** -- The fabulous finale in sparkling black-and-white! "Last Man On The Battlefield" presents the cataclysmic conclusion to the JM saga, in sparkling black-and-white -- written by Tony Isabella and illustrated by Josh Watkins and Mike Gustovich. Wrap-around cover by Josh Watkins!

**LOST IN SPACE #1** -- Full-color series! It's back. It's not what you'd expect. "Seduction of the Innocent" is written by Matt Thompson, David Campbell, and George Broderick, illustrated by Eddy Newell and Mark Jones, airbrushed by Scott Rockwell, and supervised by "Will Robinson" himself: Bill Mumy!

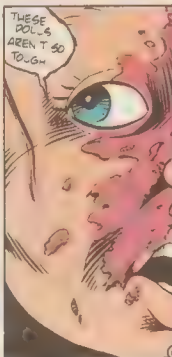
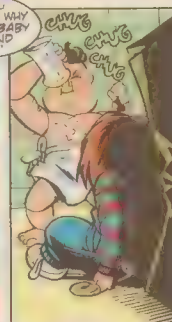
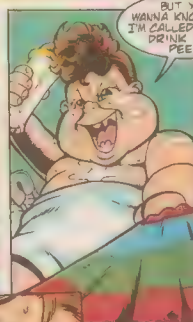
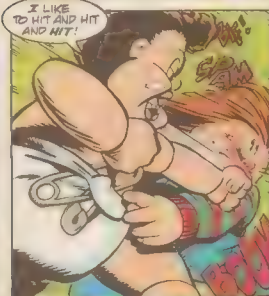
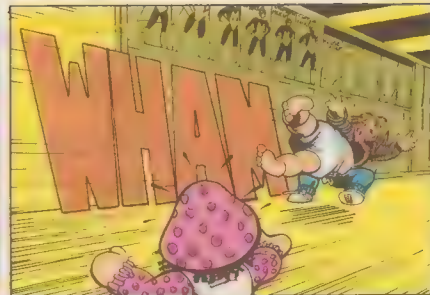
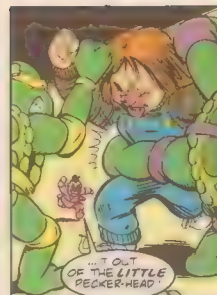
**THE MAZE AGENCY #23** -- Full-color series! "A Crime In Eden" is a biosphere mystery celebrating the anniversary of the mystery story! Written by Mike W. Barr -- and illustrated by Francesco and by Michael Oeming!

**NEON CITY #1** -- An all-new Innovation B&W! A world partly repopulated by re-creations of celebrities! "Shadow Assassin" offers startling futureviews in the cyberpunk tradition -- by Nick Anastasio and Joe Dunn. Cover by Joe Dunn!

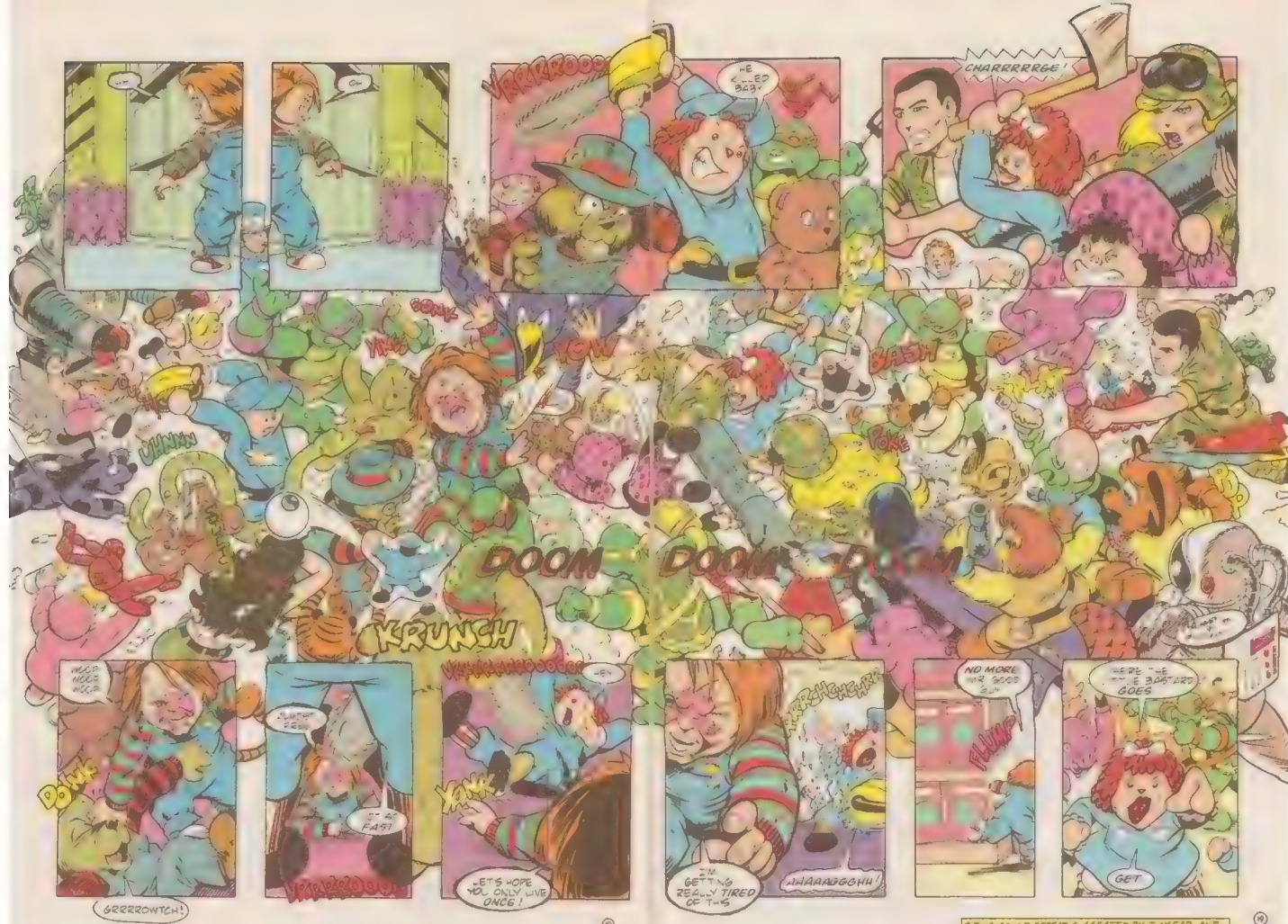
**SENTRY SPECIAL #1** -- Full-color tie-in to **HERO ALLIANCE!** Sepulchre returns...more horrifying than ever! "Cold Death" is written by Robert M. Ingersoll and illustrated by Ted Naifeh and Scott Rockwell. Cover by Bart Sears and Bill Anderson!

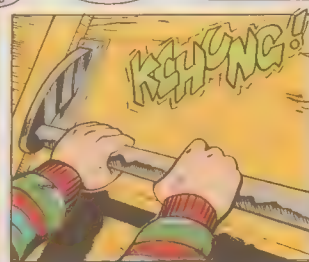
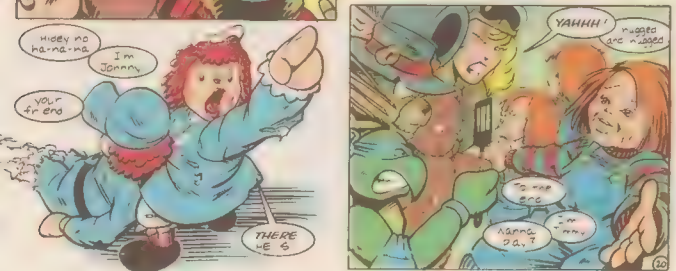
**Terry Pratchett's THE COLOUR OF MAGIC #3** -- Continuing the full-color four-issue adaptation of the British best-selling *Discworld* novel! It's adapted by Scott Rockwell, and fully painted by Steven Ross. Dragon cover painting by Daerick Gross!

**TORCHY #3** -- A special Innovation B&W! Bill Ward's classic cheesecake character continues! Written and illustrated by the legendary Bill Ward. Breezy "Tingler" cover painting by the incomparable Olivia De Berardinis!











Send your letters to:

# CHILD'S PLAY

## DEAD LETTERS

3622 Jacob Street, Wheeling, WV 26003



Hey, David —

I just finished the second issue of the ongoing *CHILD'S PLAY* series, and I truly enjoyed it. The story was an interesting change of pace from what was presented over the course of the first issue, but it worked quite well. I just hope Andy can continue to combine entertaining stories with true Chucky-style dialogue. The third panel on page 19 was truly ruthless, but it smacked more of Andrew Dice Clay than of everyone's favorite Good Guy.

And, while I missed Michael Oeming's pencils, newcomer Raine Szramski turned in an admirable effort. Especially her panel layout and execution on/for pages 20, 21, and 22. But is Raine the new regular series artist or merely filling in for Oeming?

The "I, Gregory" cover tribute was too cool. Say "Hello!" to Herman Vermin for me, eh?

"Uncle" Elvis Orten  
17650 Dawson Road  
Dawson Springs, KY 42408

Actually, Michael Oeming and Mike Witherby have been sharing the job as series inker, Elvis, not penciller. Oeming inked this issue. Newcomer Brandon McKinney has done, we think, a splendid pencilling job on this issue; he's illustrating the *CHILD'S PLAY* 3 adaptation even as I typeset this. Look for Raine Szramski back pencilling *CHILD'S PLAY: THE SERIES* #5 next month!

Dear Innovators,

I was very happy to finally see the *CHILD'S PLAY* comic out in stores. I've seen both movies and can't wait to see the third. Chucky is my personal hero and my friends call me "Chucky."

My mom hates Chucky which kinda makes a difference in what I see and buy, but my dad lets me buy the comics and see the movies.

I have some questions to ask:

- 1.) How long will the *CHILD'S PLAY* comics series last?
- 2.) How old exactly do you have to be to buy

a *CHILD'S PLAY* comic? I'm only 12 but I'm almost 13 — and the comic says "Not intended for children," even though I love violence and blood.

3.) Are you going to make comics for the first two movies?

I think I'll start a club for Chucky fans.

Nick "Chucky" Nelson  
8907 Kennard  
Houston, TX

Answers to your questions, Nick:

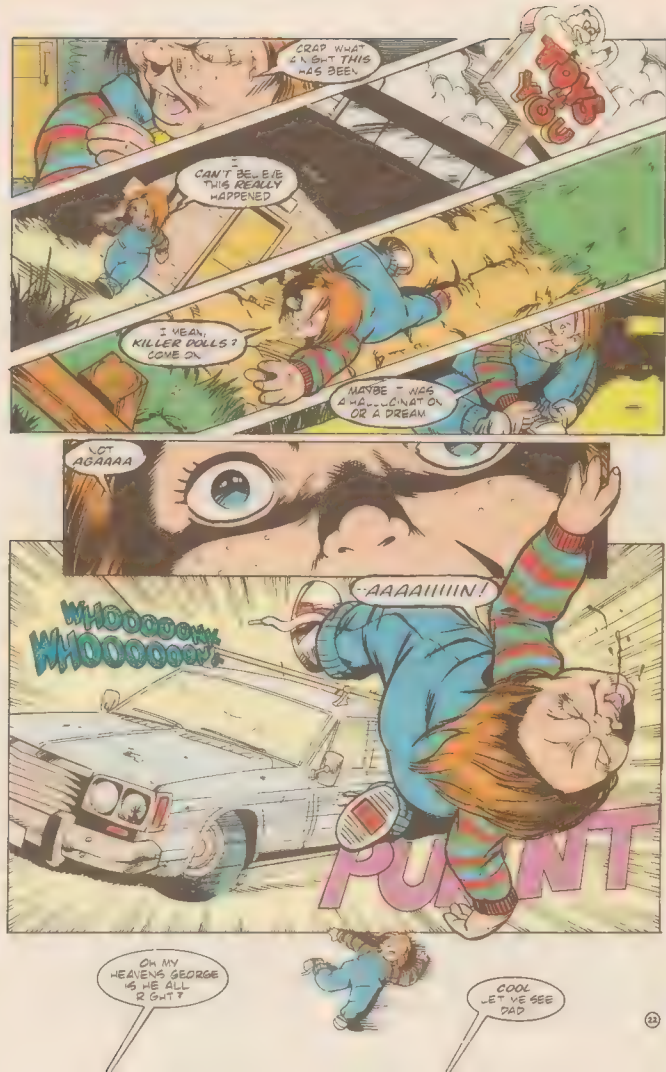
1.) The regular series will run through issue #5 which comes out next month — facing off the winners of our "Stuck on Chuck!" contest against everybody's favorite devil doll. From there, we adapt *CHILD'S PLAY* 3!

2.) We say "Not intended for children" rather than, say, "For mature readers" — because we don't really know what "For mature readers" means. Just about everyone can agree on what a child is, and it's up to the parent to decide what's proper if something is clearly labelled for an older audience. I'd prefer that the readership for our "Not intended for children" books start at about age 14 or 15, making you younger for this book than our target starting audience. But if you have the full permission of a parent, allowing you to both read the comic and see the "R"-rated movie series, then we can have no real objection to your reading *CHILD'S PLAY: THE SERIES*.

3.) We've already published *CHILD'S PLAY* 2 as a three-issue film adaptation — and it's available as back issues: \$10.00 including postage for the three comic-book issues, or \$8.00 including postage for the trade paperback version. Because the original *Child's Play* film was an MGM film rather than a Universal Studios film, and our licensing agreement is with Universal, we won't be doing that one.

To whom it may concern —

I have been a Chucky fan for ever since I saw the first *Child's Play* movie. I think it was the first



movie that kept me on the edge of my seat. It was the most intense movie I have seen in a long time.

I know that Don Mancini wrote the screenplay to the first *Child's Play*, but then you turned the whole story around. Like for instance, changing Karen Barclay from a executive in an ad agency (who designs Chucky) to a nurse, then to an average woman working in a department store. And I'll never know how you guys got Chucky to work without seeing all the wires on the film.

Then, before I know it you came out with *Child's Play 2*; that was better than the first one. And in the fall *Child's Play 3* is coming.

I am a very big fan of Chucky. I have an unlimited amount of posters, I read *Child's Play 2*, have an unlimited supply of Fangoria's with Chucky in them, have #2 of the comics, and I am working on getting a Chucky doll from this guy (if my Mom lets me have one, she's afraid it might come alive and get her).

Oh, I was wondering if I could ever get a subscription to the Chucky comics. If you can, put this letter in a Chucky comic.

A Chucky fan forever!

Billy Shell

(Address withheld by request)

I'm sure the folks at MGM and Universal appreciate your kind comments on the film series.

Check the "Back Issues Plus" ads to get the issues you've missed, Billy. A three-issue subscription to our adaptation of *Child's Play 3* is available by sending \$10.00 (including postage) to the above address.

Dear Dollhouses —

Andy, Andy, Andy. You made a major mistake in *CHILD'S PLAY: THE SERIES* #2. I mean, introducing a gay cop in a comic book! Don't you know that gays don't exist in the world of comics? And we don't read comics, either. (Shrinking Violet and Lightning Lass are "just friends!") Let's just hope that Chucky isn't a homophobe! Yes, I know. He's an "equal opportunity mass murderer."

One thing that you should do with this series is poke fun at all the slasher cliches. Like: How does a killer kill someone on one side of town one minute, and then drive a knife into someone's neck on the other side of town the next minute? How do they take average steps and catch up to someone running?

Things like that should be explored.

Mark Phillips  
P.O. Box 1927  
Johnson City, TN 37605

Andy's having a lot of fun with this series, Mark. Wait 'til you see who he pokes fun at, next issue!

Yo Chucky Dude,

Have you done any killing lately? (Ha, ha!). My cousin and I bought your comic book. Actually, we bought two. I haven't seen your movies, but I plan to, very soon.

I was wondering if you could send something. If you could I would really like that. Not anything big. Maybe a letter, notepad, pencil, or anything small.

Please write back.

Sara Doyle  
RT. 5 Box 692  
Bryan, TX 77803

I'm getting the distinct impression that the *CHILD'S PLAY* film and comics following is younger than we intended for it to be. At least the letter-writing portion of it seems to be.

The only paraphernalia we've had for the films were glowways for our contests — and freddie buttons we've given out at the summertime comics conventions.

It's real difficult for us to write back individual letters — each letter we'd write, even if you were kind enough to include a stamped, self-addressed envelope, would take away from the time we have to create the *CHILD'S PLAY* comic you enjoy reading.

NEXT ISSUE:



Chucky gets loose on the Galaxy Studios Tour, facing off the two winners of our "Stuck On Chuck" contest!

"Hooray For Horrorwood" is written by Andy Mangels, illustrated by Raine Szramski, lettered by Vickie Williams, and edited by —

— David Campiti  
July, 1991

LICENSED TO THRILL!

LOST  
in  
SPACE™

Piers Anthony's  
INCARNATIONS OF IMMORTALITY



Anne Rice's  
INTERVIEW WITH THE  
VAMPIRE™



Nightmares™ QUANTUM  
ON ELM STREET LEAD

Anne Rice's  
THE MASTER OF  
RAMPLING  
GATE™

CHILD'S  
PLAY™

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IN FULL COLOR.  
SOME OF THE BEST  
FROM THE BEST IN '91





INNOVATION™

# CHILD'S PLAY

5

THIS IS IT! "STUCK ON CHUCK"  
CONTEST WINNERS BATTLE  
THE DEMONIC DOLL!

By Andy Mangels and  
Raine Szramski



# INNOVATION™

## So Where Are All The Innovations, Anyway?

I've gotten a few comments from people who don't regularly follow our publishing endeavors, mainly along the lines of "How can you be *Innovation* if you're mainly doing adaptations of other people's stuff? What's innovative about that?"

I think a lot of it is really *caring* about what we're doing, and doing in many cases new material that continues a legend or a cult classic. I'm pleased as punch to be able to resurrect *LOST IN SPACE* and turn it into one of the best-selling, best-received, most-awaited series in the direct sales market. The chance to work on it with "Will Robinson" himself, Bill Mumy, makes it even nicer. And I'm thrilled to be able to write our upcoming, all-new *DARK SHADOWS* (Hey! A scoop...you heard it first here!), a show that I remember running home after school every week-day in the late '60s to watch.

Similarly, our art director, George Broderick, Jr. is a big-time fan of *QUANTUM LEAP*, and that it's one of three projects he specifically asked me to arrange for him. We did, the book looks great and reads just like the TV show plays, and he and we couldn't be happier.

Diana Light, who is now Diana Light-Okamoto (but still has the Southern accent, just to confuse people further), is a big fan of Piers Anthony's Incarnations of Immortality series, beginning with *ON A PALE HORSE*. She edited the first issue with my adaptation, then plunged in to handle adapting from there. Now that Mike Okamoto painted the first big issue, set the style, and will continue doing the covers for the entire six-issue run, the book is in the best hands possible.

As far as our freelancers:

Andy Mangels is a big fan of the Freddy Krueger films and the *CHUCKY* movies. So when he brought *CHILD'S PLAY* (adaptations and this new series you're holding in your hands right now), *NIGHTMARES ON*

*ELM STREET* (new stories featuring the film characters), and *FREDDY'S DEAD: THE FINAL NIGHTMARE* (adapting the sixth and final Freddy film) to us to publish, and he showed us his *passion* for the projects, we took them on — because we knew we would get the best books possible.

Scott Rockwell had two projects that were very personal to him: *Terry Pratchett's THE COLOUR OF MAGIC* and *Gene Wolfe's THE SHADOW OF THE TORTURER*. Both read well. Both are excellently drawn. He, the authors, and their fans couldn't be happier. And *THE COLOUR OF MAGIC* is being arranged for reprinting in its native England.

Paye Perozich and Daerick Gross were equally hot to do *Anne Rice's THE VAMPIRE LESTAT*, which turned out to be the independent publisher success story of the year. This beautiful series will be collected into two different trade paperbacks (one from Ballantine, one from us), plus a hardcover and a limited signed-and-numbered hardcover later this year. Three more Anne Rice projects have resulted, Daerick Gross won the Russ Manning Award for best new talent at San Diego Con this year, and the results all show that *caring* about a project really means something.

We've learned that the care factor makes all the difference. Sure, at first glance we look like the Gold Key of the '90s, with adaptation/tie-in fever, but look at the difference in quality!

The chance to work on childhood heroes, legends, cultural icons, and do our best work ever makes coming to work each day worthwhile. Rather than a bunch of *product* to wrap advertising around, our books offer a lot of care — nice paper, nicely written, often fully painted, and reasonably priced.

That strikes me as pretty *Innovative*, indeed!

— David Campiti  
August, 1991

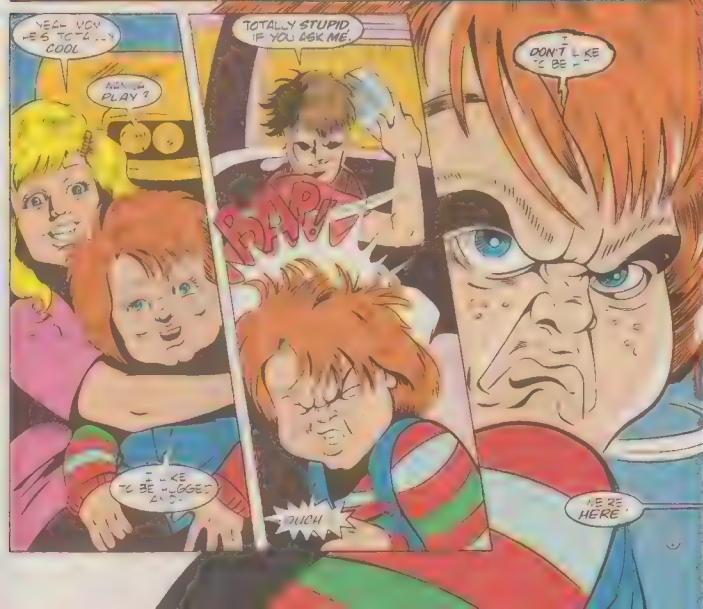


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ANDY MANGELS WRITER	RAINE SRAMSKI PENCILER	BOB KHALBERG INKER
VICKIE WILLIAMS LETTERER	SCOTT ROCKWELL COLORIST	DAVID CAMPITI EDITOR

Featuring Child's Play Contest Winners EMILIO REMIOR and ROB HALBASCH!

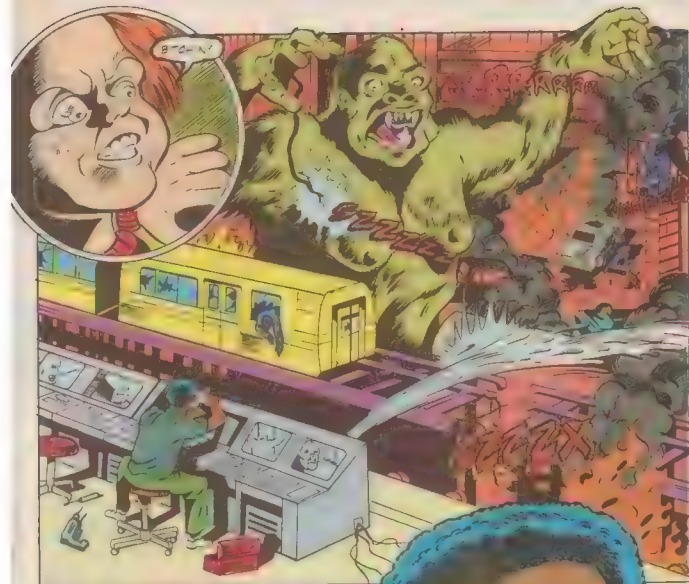
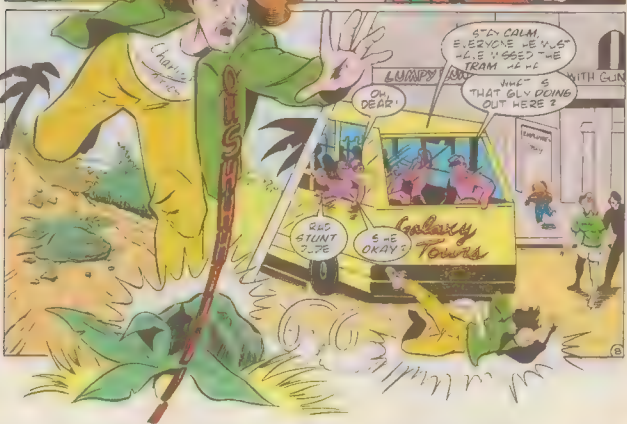


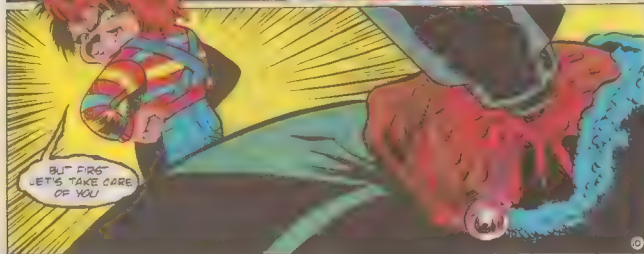
















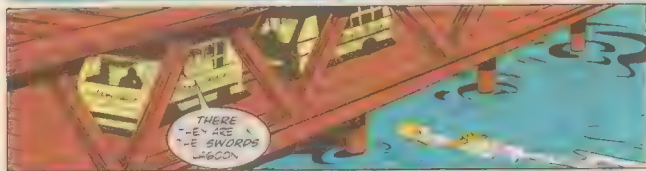
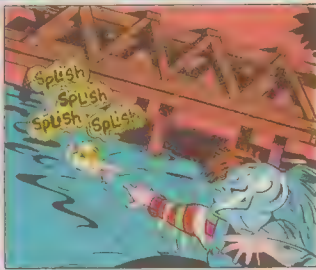
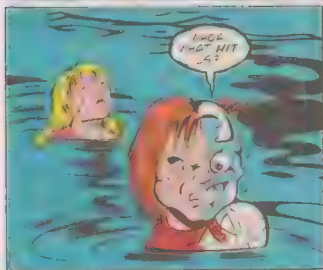


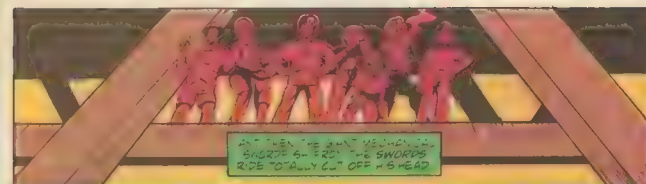




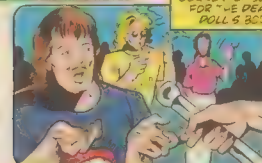






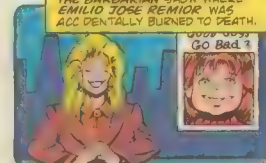


#4 BODY FEEL BACK IN THE LAGOON



"A SHARK IS ARE CURRENTLY GETTING FOR THE DEADLY POLL'S BODY"

"HUNDREDS OF BYSTANDERS CLAIM TO HAVE SEEN THE POLL AT THE JACK THE BARBERIAN SHOP WHERE EMILIO JOSE REMIOR WAS ACCIDENTALLY BURNED TO DEATH."



"THE GOOD GUYS POLL MYSTERY WAS SPARKED REPORTS OF A LOST DOG ALL OVER THE COUNTY. ANDREW BARCLAY, THE YOUNG CHICAGO BOY WHO WAS KILLED BY THE DOG, WAS DOGGED KILLED BY THE SPOT OF THE 'LAKESHORE STRANGER' IS NOW IN A FOSTER HOME."



"WHILE HIS MOTHER KAREN BARCLAY IS NOW ON TRIAL FOR THE MURDER OF HER PSYCH AT RST EARLY LAST MONTH"



TED SULLIVAN, CEO OF THE CHICAGO-BASED PLAY PALS COMPANY, BOASTED TO THE NEW YORK TIMES TODAY BY ANNOUNCING THE CLOSING OF THE PLANT WHICH MANUFACTURES THE DOGS



A LITTLE WHILE AGO, THE PLAY PALS COMPANY, THE NAME OF GOOD GUYS DOGS



WHO HAVE PRODUCED COUNTLESS BOYS AND GIRLS

WITH A FRIEND TO THE END



# CHILD'S PLAY

## DEAD LETTERS

3622 Jacob Street, Wheeling, WV 26003



It's no fluke. CHILD'S PLAY letter column writers are younger -- and weirder -- than lettercol writers for any other series Innovation has ever published! It's a strange experience to open each letter addressed to "Dead Letters" -- especially when some of those readers feel compelled to enclose their own drawn rendition of Chucky!

With all that in mind, let's delve into our regularly-scheduled lettercol, okay? Onward....

Dear Innovation--

I was reading my CHILD'S PLAY issues #1, book #2, and I noticed the "Back Issues Plus" ad page.

And I noticed that there were no back orders available on CHILD'S PLAY issues. I was just wanting to know if there was any way that I could order CHILD'S PLAY issue #1 book #1. I already have #2 and #3.

And I've been waiting for the comic-book stores in my area to order it.

They just keep telling me that they've been trying, but that it's been taking months. So: I thought that, if I could write to you myself, it would be easier for me.

If you can't get me a copy, please tell me somewhere to get it. Thank you very much!

Kim W. Davidson  
(No address on letter)

Unfortunately, comics shops are at the mercies of the distributors who may or may not wish to be bothered filling back-issue requests. We've re-offered every issue, so they have indeed been made available consistently.

Remember that we publish roughly 10 titles per month; if you don't see a Back Issues Plus ad in one of the other titles, I'd be surprised. At a glance at the comics on my wall, I see "Back Issues Plus" ads featured in NIGHTMARES ON ELM STREET #3, QUANTUM LEAP #1, 3 X 3 EYES #4, and THE MAZE AGENCY #23. They're updated every month or two, so you know the lists are current.

I'm confused by your numbering, but here's what's available.

CHILD'S PLAY 2 #1, #2, and #3 are available at \$2.50 per issue.

CHILD'S PLAY: THE SERIES #1, #2, and #3 are available at \$2.50 per issue.

CHILD'S PLAY: THE GRAPHIC NOVEL (a collection of our three-part adaptation, as a trade paperback) is available for \$6.95.

And starting this month, CHILD'S PLAY 3 #1, #2, and #3 are all available, also at \$2.50 per issue.

A trade paperback version of CHILD'S PLAY 3 will be available at Christmastime, for \$6.95.

All are available from Back Issues Plus, 3622 Jacob Street, Wheeling, WV 26003. Include \$2 postage per order plus a dime per book.

Dear Innovation--

Hi! I was wondering if there is any way I could send away for a "Good Guy" doll.

And would it be possible to subscribe to the CHILD'S PLAY comic? I love them!

Please give me more information on Chucky, if it is possible.

Thank you very much -- and keep up the good work!

Later....

Barry McDonald  
359 King Street East  
Oshawa, Ontario  
Canada L1H 1E3

Barry, nobody as far as I know has mass-marketed full-sized Chucky dolls, although last year two different-sized dolls and a latex mask were both available from the Spencer Gifts store chain. You may wish to check with them, if they're in your area. They might still have some backstock available.

See the above letter regarding back issues.

If you wish to subscribe to the three-issue adaptation of CHILD'S PLAY 3, send \$9 to Innovation Subscription Department, 3622 Jacob Street, Wheeling, WV 26003.

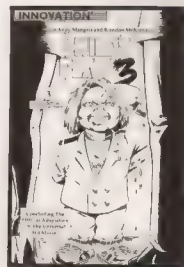
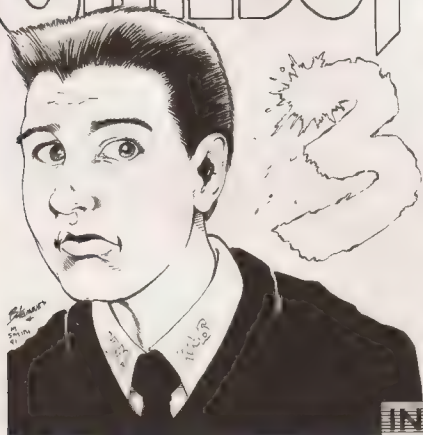
It's a lot of fun -- the comic book and the movie. The comic is adapted by Andy Mangels, illustrated by Brandon McKinney and friends, and it's a doozy.

Hidey-Ho!

See you there...

-- David Campiti  
September, 1991

# LOOK WHO'S STALKING...



ON SALE NOW  
FROM

INNOVATION



**THERE COMES A TIME  
TO PUT AWAY CHILDHOOD THINGS.  
BUT SOME THINGS  
WON'T STAY PUT!**

# CHILD'S PLAY 3

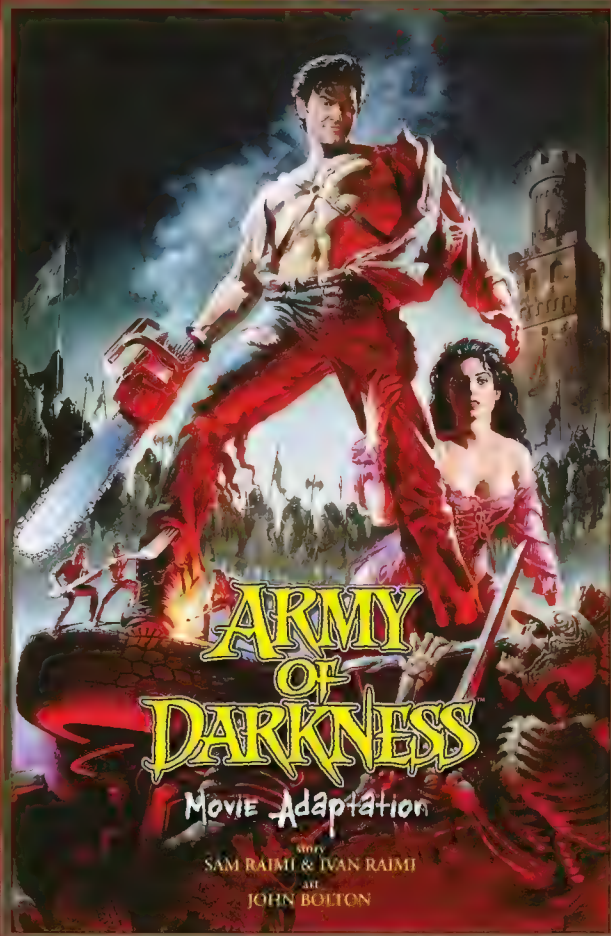
**LOOK WHO'S STALKING!**

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**NOW PLAYING AT THEATRES EVERYWHERE**



30TH ANNIVERSARY



DYNAMITE

# ARMY OF DARKNESS

Movie Adaptation

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# ARMY OF DARKNESS

Movie Adaptation

*Screenplay by*

SAM RAIMI & IVAN RAIMI,  
RENAISSANCE PICTURES

*Adapted from the Original  
Screenplay and Illustrated by*

JOHN BOLTON

*Letterer*

PAT BROSEAU

*Original Series Editor*

MIKE RICHARDSON



An Introduction by Kurt Busiek

*"The Book speaks of a spiritual presence, a thing of evil, that roams the forests and dark bowers of man's domain. It is through the recitation of the Book's passages that this dark spirit license to possess the living..."*

*Professor, Evil Dead 2*

Comic book penciller James Fry's friends told him *Evil Dead* was the best 'Spam in a house' horror movie since *Night of the Living Dead*. But he'd seen *Night* at something like age seven and it had terrified him beyond belief. So he skipped *Evil Dead*, figuring another experience like that was something he could afford to miss. It wasn't until years later, at a video party, that he saw *Evil Dead 2: Dead by Dawn* for the first—but by no means the last—time.

For writer and publisher Mike Richardson, it was Mark Verheiden. "Mark called me up and said, 'There's this movie you've just got to see!' And I thought, come on. *Evil Dead*? Two?! Forget it—I've got work to do! But he refused to send in the script for the next issue of *The American* until I went out and rented *Evil Dead 2* and watched it." So he did—and was immediately captured by director Sam Raimi's lunatic combination of horror and black humor, of pedal-to-the-metal atmospherics and over-the-top grossout special effects.

For me, well, I'd been told about *Evil Dead 2*—but like Mike and James, I had better things to do. At least until I got the assignment to write a comics series based on Sam Raimi's *Darkman* and decided I'd better see as much of Raimi's work as I could, to immerse myself in his style before I started writing. *Evil Dead* had been stolen from the video shop by acquisitive fans, so the first one I saw was *Evil Dead 2*. And I, too, have fallen under the spell.



So what's going on here? What's the significance of the fact that I don't seem to be able to find anyone who saw these movies in a theater? How come no one will admit to having seen them of their own volition—it's always someone else who recommended them? And why, if nobody saw the first one until after they'd seen the second (on video, I remind you, at the recommendation or coercion of "friends") is there a second one at all, let alone a comparatively big-budget third installment in the series, the comics adaptation of which you hold in your hands? Were the *Evil Dead* movies ever actually made and released, or did they simply come into existence in dark corners of small video shops, to attract the attention of the unwary or the foolish, and thus begin to spread their influence throughout the fragile psyche of man?

But all that—chilling though the implications of it are—is beside the point. The point is that since the first two *Evil Dead* films are cult video treasures whose charms have been spread from enthusiast to enthusiast largely by word of mouth, a lot of you out there reading this probably haven't seen the

first two films (yet) and might appreciate being filled in on what has gone before, as you plunge into the deep and gelid waters of *Army of Darkness*.

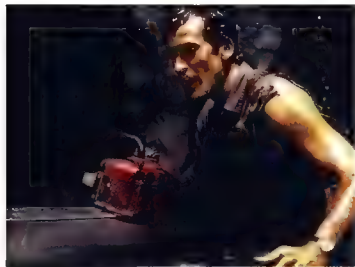
*"I know that my wife has become host to a Kandarian demon. I fear the only way to stop those possessed by the spirits of the Book is through the act of bodily dismemberment..."*  
*Professor, Evil Dead*

The "Spam" of the first movie, *Evil Dead*, are vacationing college students Ashley, his girlfriend Linda, buddy Scottie, sister Cheryl and Scottie's girlfriend Shelly. The "house" is a run-down cabin in the middle of nowhere, an area so rural and hard-to-reach that the only way to the cabin is over a rickety bridge that threatens to fall apart if travelers look at it too hard, let alone cross it. Ash and his pals have rented the cabin for a song (one has to wonder from whom, given what's happened to the owners) and arrive in generally good spirits, despite eerie omens along the way. As they settle in amid further eerie omens, Scottie investigates a noise in the basement and finds, amid a welter of junk, a



tape recorder and a book full of weird runes and grisly, horrific drawings. Naturally, they can't resist playing the tape.

The voice on the tape, an unnamed professor who has retreated to this cabin to work in privacy, describes the book, a recently



rediscovered volume of ancient Sumerian funerary incantations entitled *Naturum de Montum* (which we are told roughly translates out to *The Book of the Dead*) that reputedly have the power to either resurrect the dead or release some undying evil. Or something along those lines: the professor's description is vague. Whatever, the professor has translated some of the incantations and obligingly reads them aloud. Which calls forth the "evil dead"—or maybe it just alerts them to the fact that the cabin has new lodgers, since the evil dead have been swooping unseen through the woods in distinctive Sam Raimi camera techniques since the start of the movie, having already feasted on the souls of the professor and his wife. Now, apparently, it's time for dessert.

I won't go into all the details here (go ahead, rent the video—it's perfectly harmless, I assure you), but from here on the gore, death and mayhem come thick and fast: Cheryl gets sexually molested by trees (honest), turns into a floating, gibbering, zombified thing and has to be locked in the basement. Shelly gets zombified too, and she really takes a licking—head stuck into a fire, hand cut off, stabbed through the heart—but she keeps on

ticking until Scottie takes an axe to her and chops her to bits. And even then, the bits twitch until they bury her. Scottie decides to blow off the others, and leaves by a trail he knows about (the bridge is out by this time), but the trees do a job on him, too, and he barely makes it back to the house before he dies. Oh yeah, and Linda turns into a giggling blank-eyed horror that sing-songs, "We're gonna get you, we're gonna get you..."

It's worth noting that Ash is decidedly not the heroic type, at least at the beginning of the movie. It's Scottie who braves the basement, Scottie who plays the tape, Scottie who gets Cheryl penned up in the basement and hacks up Shelly, while Ash shrinks back, gasps in horror, looks unbelieving, gets thrown around and flounders underneath an overturned bookcase. But once Scottie is dead or comatose or whatever (don't worry, he comes back—people stay dead in these movies about as long as Marvel supervillains), Ash is on his own.

And from here to the end of the movie, things are not pleasant for poor Ash. Not only are there Linda, Cheryl and Scottie to deal with, but the house vomits blood at him, mirrors turn to water and all manner of grisly, disgusting things happen, photographed in that distinctive Raimi hyper-clarity. Ash ultimately has to resort to thumbing his best friend's eyes out and decapitating his dead (but volatile) girlfriend with a shovel, and even that doesn't do the trick. It's not until he throws the Book into the fire that the rotting corpses of friends and family shrivel up, mutate, are torn apart by things inside trying to get out, start bleeding maggots and then, as if that weren't enough, explode.

But the power of the evil dead is broken. Or is it? The movie ends as dawn comes, and Ash staggers out of the house and toward his car. As this happens, we get one last swooping, soaring, evil-dead's-eye-view camera shot as it rockets through the forest, roars into the house, ricochets through hallways and rooms, slams through what seems like every door in the building and comes careening out the front, coming up behind Ash, who turns and screams.

*"I don't care what happens to her. She's your girlfriend, you take care of her!"*

—Scottie to Ash, *Evil Dead*

*Evil Dead 2*: Dead by Dawn isn't exactly a sequel, in that it doesn't exactly continue the story. Instead, it goes back and starts over, playing things a little differently. Ash and his girlfriend Linda head for vacation and a secluded cabin, this time sans Scottie, Shelly and Cheryl (the moviemakers discovered that using footage from the first movie in flashback sequences would be too expensive, thanks to the video deal they'd signed). This time, the cabin is far less dilapidated, and it's not rented—Ash simply knows it's empty and the owners aren't coming back any time soon (though of course, they do come back, albeit not in the way Ash had thought...). This time, the professor gets a name—Professor Knowby—and the book gets two—the professor still refers to it as *Naturum de Montum*, but there's a prologue that names it *Necronomicon ex Mortis*, which also translates roughly into *The Book of the Dead*, or so we're told. This time, the professor's been working on the Book and its translation quite recently, and his tape recorder is sitting in his study, not lost in the basement. Ash plays the tape, the evil dead attack, Linda turns into an undead creature, and Ash beheads her and buries her, all within the first few minutes of the movie. Then we get a new version of that spectacular swooping demon's-eye-view run through the woods, the house, and up toward Ash as he's leaving at dawn that the first movie ended with, but this time things continue, as the sequel properly gets under way. Ash is borne through the woods at high speed, smacked into a tree, dropped into a filthy puddle and as if that weren't enough, possessed. But the sun rises and the demon is driven out. Ash passes out and only wakes up as dusk approaches, to face another night partying with the evil dead.

But there's a lot more to *Evil Dead 2* than Ash besieged in the cabin, and it all comes out of the backstory with the professor. Fresh Spam is imported in the persons of the professor's daughter Annie and his associate

Ed, who are headed for the cabin with newly-discovered pages of the Book, and locals Jake and Bobby Jo, who, since the bridge is out this time too, are packing the other two in over a little-known hiking trail. The new pages of the Book hold a secret and a complication—they tell of a legendary hero who fought the demons in the Middle Ages and contain spells that can trap the demons and suck them out of the present and into the past. But that's not all, either. The professor and his wife, Henrietta, who were unnamed presences who only participated in the first story via tape recorder, both show up this time around—and as you no doubt recall, they're both dead.

By the time Annie and friends reach the cabin, Ash is in lousy shape again. He's had to carve Linda's headless (and quite restless) body up with a chain saw, fight his own reflection and do mortal battle with his own (possessed) right hand, a battle that ends with Ash choking out, "Who's laughing now, huh? Who's laughing now?" as he hacks his hand off at the wrist. So the new faces arrive to find a wild-eyed, blood-smeared, one-handed stranger with a shotgun and a bloody chain saw in a cabin awash with blood, when they expected to find Professor and Mrs. Knowby. Naturally, they make the wrong assumption. Wouldn't you?

This is the point where, as they say, "complications ensue." Ash gets overpowered and locked in the fruit cellar; Mrs. Knowby, who's buried down there, wakes up, hungry; Ed gets possessed and hacked to bits; Bobby Jo gets taken by the trees (albeit far more tastefully than Cheryl did); the professor's ghost pops up to tip Ash and Annie off about the new pages; Jake tosses the pages into the fruit cellar with the professor to force the others to help him look for Bobby Jo; and oh yeah, Ash gets possessed again. A fun time is had by all, especially the dead.

By the time the dust settles, Ash is in control again, Jake is dead, Annie's terrified, Mom's laughing and the movie reveals itself for what it truly is—a superhero origin story. It would be a shame to ruin the moment if



you didn't know it was coming, but since by now anyone reading this has doubtless seen the way Ash looks in *Army of Darkness*, you know by now that Ash has a chain saw in place of his missing right hand and a sawed-off shotgun for use by the left. Ash gets rigged out like this to take on Mama Knowby and retrieve the pages, and the stage is set for an action-all-the-way blowout that got Ash dubbed "the Rambo of horror" (but we know Rambo's just a candyass; his weapons aren't attached). How does it end? Well, since the end of *Evil Dead 2* directly sets up *Army of Darkness*, which was originally planned to be titled *Evil Dead 3: Medieval Dead*, you undoubtedly know that, too—Ash gets thrown back in time, with his shotgun, chainsaw and '73 Oldsmobile sedan, fated to become the hero prophesied by the Book. And Raimi and friends must have had a ghastly time squeezing the substance of both *Evil Dead* movies, even stripped down to their essentials, into the

first few minutes of *Army of Darkness*. Heck it took me all day and I still had to skip over the flying eyeball, the mousehole sequence and all kinds of cool stuff!

*"We just cut up our girlfriend with a chain saw. Does that sound 'fine?'"*

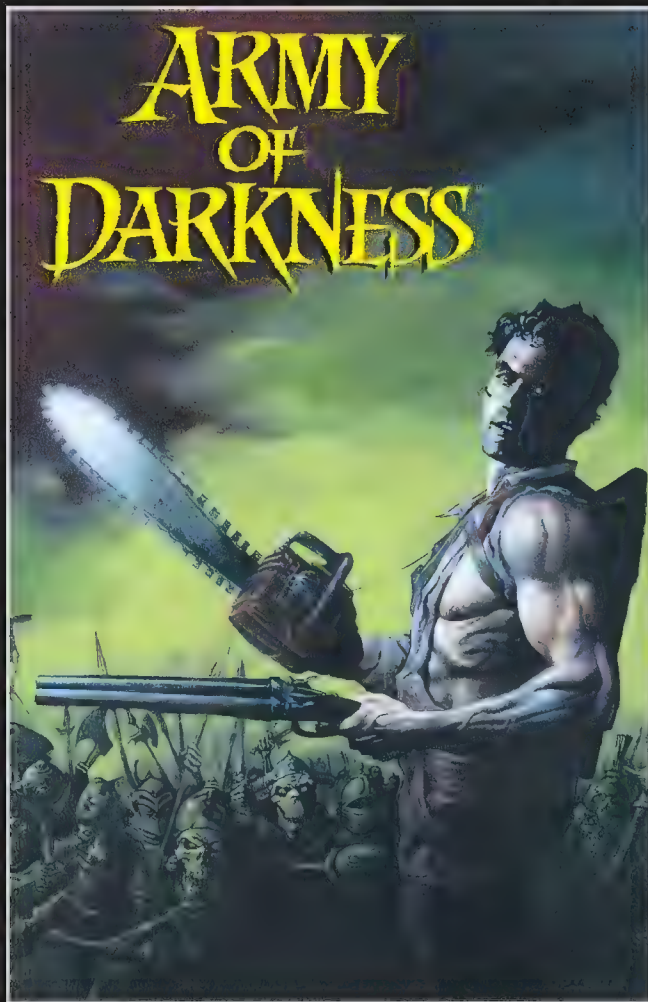
*— Ash's reflection to Ash, Evil Dead 2*

So don't take these sketchy plot synopses as more than teasers. Go on. Rent the videos. And once you've rented 'em, tell a friend. Tell five friends. It's safe, I tell you—they're perfectly ordinary movies. I mean, we all watched them—and nothing happened to us, right? We're all just fine, back here in the dark.

Go ahead. You can do it...

*"May God forgive me for what I have unleashed into this Earth..."*

*— Professor Knowby, Evil Dead 2*

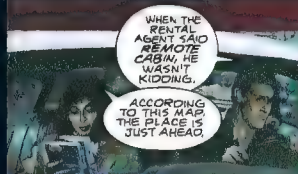
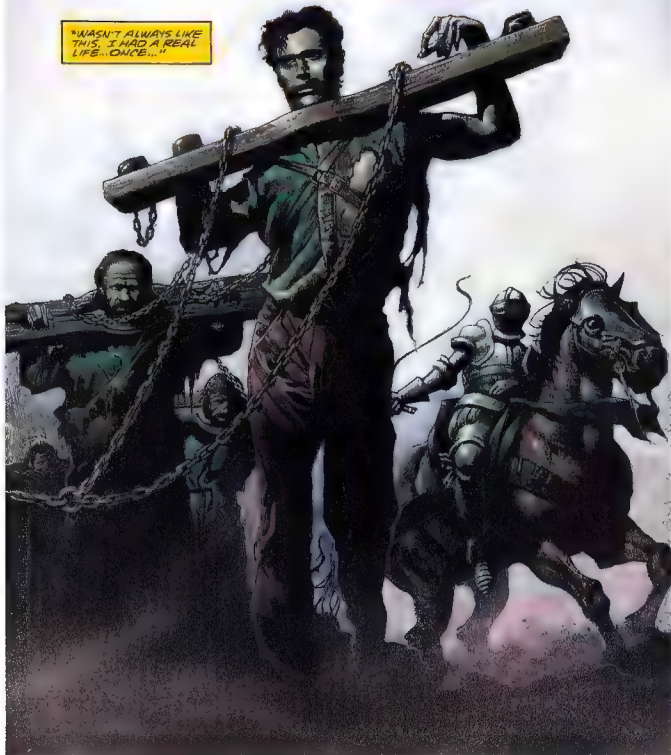




"MY NAME IS ASH AND  
I AM A SLAVE."

"CLOSE AS I CAN FIGURE  
IT, THE YEAR IS 1300 A.D.,  
AND I AM BEING DRAGGED  
TO MY DEATH."

"WASN'T ALWAYS LIKE  
THIS. I HAD A REAL  
LIFE... ONCE..."



WHEN THE  
RENTAL  
AGENT SAID  
"REMOTE  
CASH," HE  
WASN'T  
KIDDING.

ACCORDING  
TO THIS MAP,  
THE PLACE IS  
JUST AHEAD.



"THE SUN SET,  
ENDING THE LAST  
NORMAL DAY  
THAT I WOULD  
EVER KNOW."

"IT WAS HERE  
THAT I FIRST  
SET EYES UPON  
THAT DAMN  
BOOK."

"IT SEEMS THAT AN ARCH  
DEMONIST HAD COME  
TO THIS REMOTE PLACE  
TO TRANSLATE AND  
STUDY HIS LATEST FIND."



"NECROMANCY, EY, MORTIS.  
THE BOOK OF THE DEAD."



"BOUND IN HUMAN FLESH AND INKED IN BLOOD,  
THE BOOK CONTAINED BIZARRE BURIAL RITES,  
FUNERARY INCANTATIONS, AND INSTRUCTIONS  
FOR DEMON RESURRECTION."

"IT WAS NEVER MEANT FOR  
THE WORLD OF THE LIVING."

"THE BOOK AWOKE  
SOMETHING DARK  
IN THE WOODS."



"IT TOOK  
LINDA."





"I GREETED MY  
BRAVE NEW WORLD."

STAND  
FAST, HELL-  
HOUND!

WHOO!  
JUST TAKE  
IT EASY, CHIEF.  
I DON'T KNOW HOW  
I GOT HERE AND  
I'M NOT LOOKING FOR  
ANY TROUBLE. THIS  
WHOLE THING IS  
JUST SOME BIG  
MISTAKE.

M'LORD!  
TIS THE ONE  
WRITTEN OF IN THE  
NECKRONOMICON...  
HE WHO IS  
PROPHESIED TO FALL  
FROM THE HEAVENS TO  
DELIVER US FROM THE  
TERROR OF THE  
DEADITES.

I  
THINK  
NOT.

MYIA!  
AAAAH!

ENEMY...?

HE BLEEDS  
AS A MAN.  
BLEEDS, THE ONE  
WRITTEN OF IN THE  
NECKRONOMICON WOULD  
NOT BLEED MORE.  
LIKELY, HE'S ONE  
OF HEAVY'S MEN  
OUR ENEMY.



WELL,  
YOU AIN'T  
EXACTLY ON  
MY CHRISTMAS  
LIST!

AAARRR  
GGGGH!

THOU SHALT  
PAY DEARLY  
FOR THAT  
BRASH  
ACT!



MOVE  
ALONG OR  
TASTE THE  
LASH, YOU  
SCURRILOUS  
DOGS!

"HE ONLY I COULD  
REACH MY GOODS  
MY CHAINSAW  
AND SHOTGUN..."

"I DON'T KNOW HOW LONG I MARCHED, BUT I  
DIDN'T HAVE TO COUNT THE MAN WITH THE  
WHIP SEEMED TO KEEP THE TIME WITH AN  
"INCESSANT" CRACK, CRACK, CRACKING."

"...WERE ON A HORSE NOT  
FIVE FEET FROM ME. IT  
MIGHT AS WELL HAVE  
BEEN MILES."

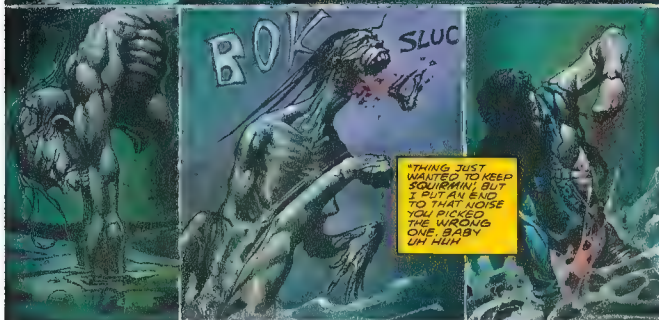


"AHEAD, THROUGH THE THIMMERING  
HEAT WAVES... A CASTLE. THERE LAY  
MY SALVATION... OR TOMB."

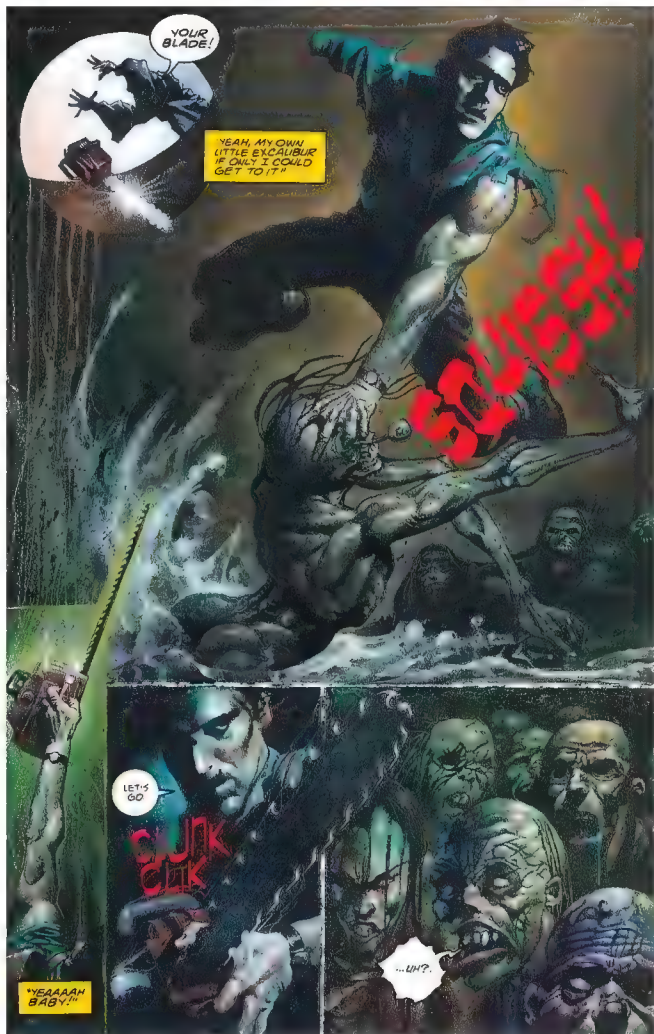
















"THE CROWD BACKED AWAY AS I CLIMBED UP. I GUESS THEY'D NEVER SEEN ANYTHING CRUEL OUT OF THESE ALIENS AND THEY WEREN'T ABOUT TO CROSS THE FIRST BLY THAT DIED."

"NEXT ONE OF YOU PRIMATES TOWN ME I'LL KILL YOU."



"HENRY, GET ON THOSE HORSES AND GET OUT OF HERE!"

"HOW DARE YOU ISSUE ORDERS AT MY CASTLE?"

"EVEN IF YOU ARE THE PROMISED ONE."

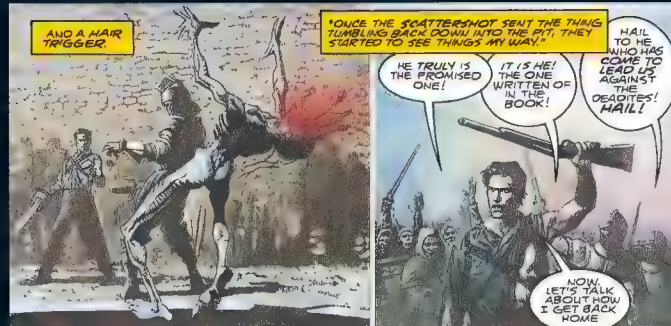
"FOR THAT ARROGANCE, I SHALL SEE THEM DEAD."

BAANG  
CHUNK



"THIS IS MY BOOM STICK. IT'S A TWELVE GAUGE, DOUBLE-BARRELED REMINGTON, SMART'S TOP OF THE LINE."

"THIS BABY WAS MADE IN GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN. IT RETELS FOR ABOUT A HUNDRED NINETY-NINE, NINETY-FIVE, WALNUT STOCK, COBALT BLUE STEEL..."



AND A HARE TRIGGER

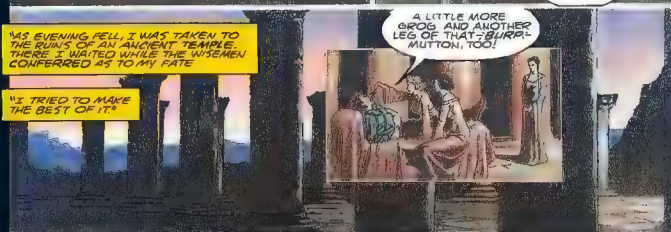
"ONCE THE SCATTERSHOT SENT THE THING TUMBLING BACK DOWN INTO THE PIT, THEY STARTED TO SEE THINGS MY WAY."

"HE TRULY IS THE PROMISED ONE!"

"IT'S HE! THE ONE WRITTEN OF IN THE DEADOTES' BOOK!"

"HAIL TO HE WHO HAS COME TO LEAD US AGAINST THE DEADOTES! HAIL!"

"NOW, LET'S TALK ABOUT HOW I GET BACK HOME."



"AS EVENING FELL, I WAS TAKEN TO THE RUINS OF AN ANCIENT TEMPLE. THERE, I WAITED WHILE THE WISEMEN CONFERRED AS TO MY FATE."

"I TRIED TO MAKE THE BEST OF IT."

"A LITTLE MORE GOOD, AND ANOTHER LEG OF THAT BURRMUTTON, TOO!"



"I PRAY THEE TO FORGIVE ME. I BELIEVED THEE ONE OF HENRY'S MEN."

"THE WISEMEN RETURNED FROM THEIR CONSUL."

"WELL, WHAT IS IT? CAN YOU SEND ME BACK TO YOUR OWN TIME?"

"IT CONTAINS PASSAGES THAT CAN DISPEL THE EVIL AND SEND YOU BACK TO YOUR OWN TIME."

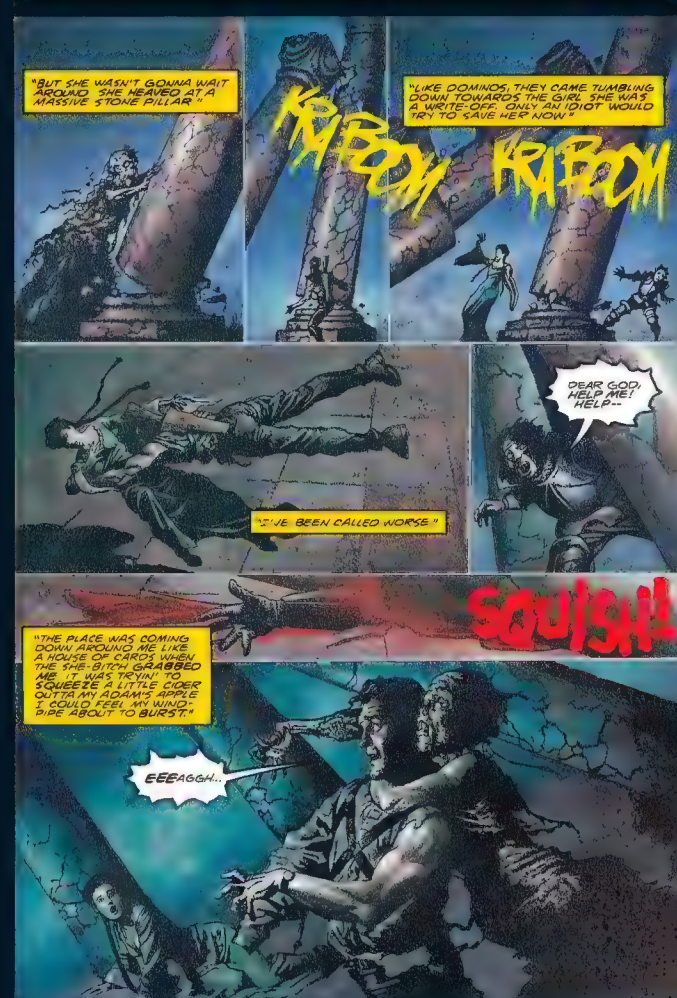
"FIRST YA WUUNA KILL ME, NOW YA WUUNA KISS ME."

BLOW

"ONLY THE NEGROCHON HAS THE POWER AN UNKID BOOK WHICH WE ALSO REQUIRE."

"ONLY YOU, THE PROMISED ONE, CAN QUEST FOR IT."









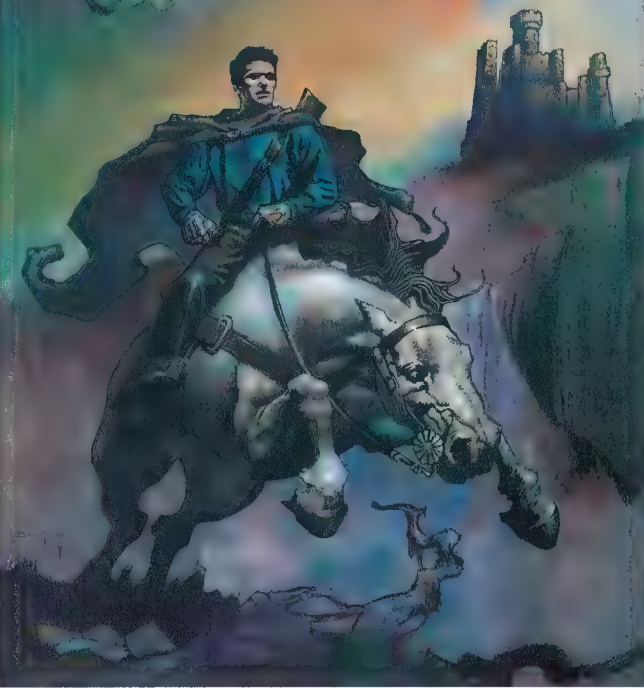




John R. Williams

ONLY WITH THE  
ARCHMAGUS CAN I SEND YOU BACK  
TO YOUR TIME, WHEN  
YOU WROTE IT FROM  
THE CLAVIER, BEFORE  
THAT MESSY  
CLAYDOR VENTURE  
WAS... REWRITTEN  
EXACTLY "CLAYDOR."

"THE OLD GUY KEPT  
YAB 'NED' GIBSON BY  
ME. AFTER A WHILE,  
I JUST TUNED HIM OUT  
Y'KNOX HOW YOU  
DO THAT?"



"OH I HOPE FOR THE  
BOOK I COULD  
KNOW THERE WAS  
SOMETHING AT MY SIX."



"I PUT IT IN HIGH  
GEAR, A WHINE  
CHECKING BEHIND  
ME. THAT'S WHY I  
DON'T TRY THE  
THWACK."



"WHOSE  
WHERE?"



"JUST ANYONE  
I COULD HAVE  
THE MILL."



"I HAD MY HANDS ON MY EYES,  
WENT AWAY, SILENT, SPOKE  
REINDEER CHAINS, BUT THE  
THING IS THE JACKS AND  
GETTA CLOSER."















"THE ONLY THING  
WAS GRIMING RIGHT  
CUTTING ME

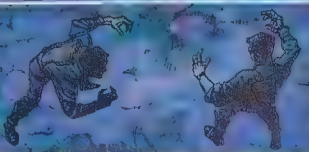
ARRGH!

NOOOO  
HOOOORR  
NOOOO

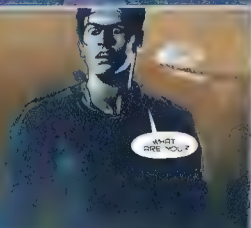
I COULD FEEL ALL  
MY BAD PARTS BEING  
DRIVEN AWAY INTO  
THIS THING. ALL MY  
DIRTY PARTS. MY  
FEELING PARTS. THEY  
WENT INTO THE STUFF  
OF THIS THING. ME



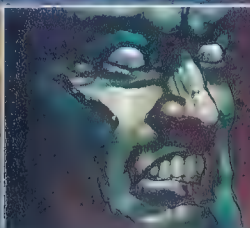
AND THEN THERE WERE  
TWO WHEN I MOVED HE  
MOVED WHEN I FREEZE  
HE FROZE FREEZE



AND  
ONE YOU



I'M  
THE BAD  
ONE. AND  
YOU'RE



SOOTY  
LITTLE TWO  
SHOES SOOTY  
LITTLE TWO  
SHOES

SNACK!

GOOD  
BUT I'M  
NOT  
WITH THE  
GRAY.



THERE'S NO DOIN' A  
HALFWAY JOB

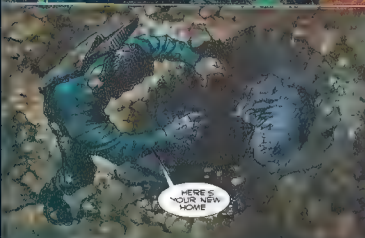


IT'S A DIRTY BIT  
OF BUSINESS  
WHEN YOU FINISH  
OFF A CRIMINAL

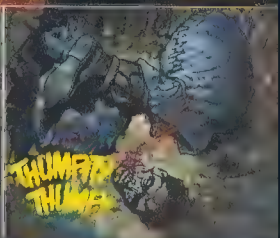
YOU CUT 'EM



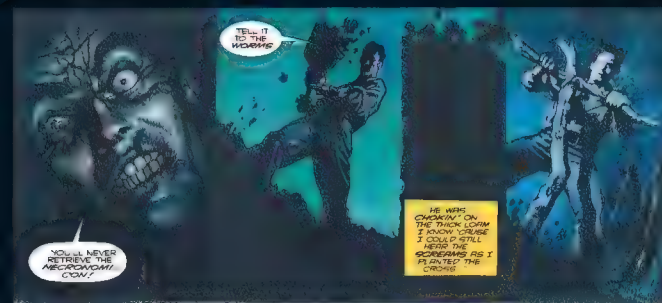
ON EASY  
EN DEER



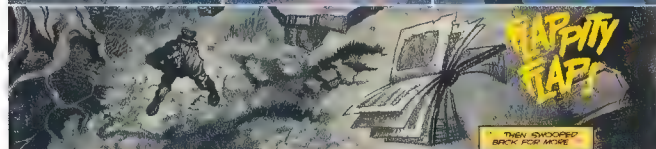
HERE'S  
YOUR NEW  
HOME



THUNDER  
THUNDER

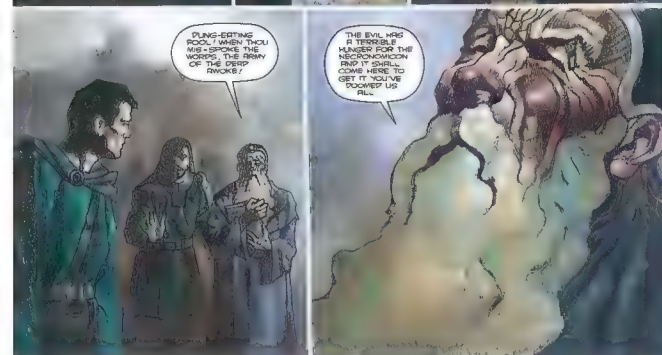
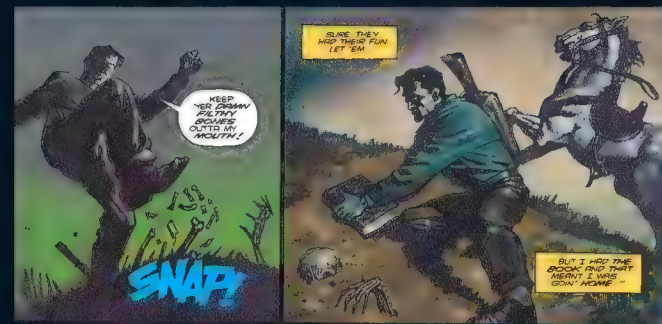






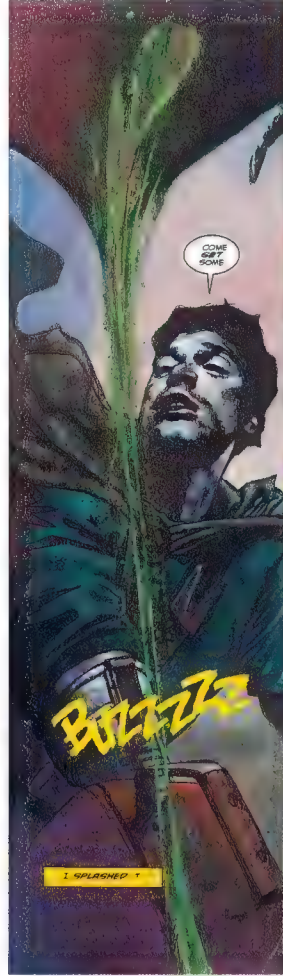
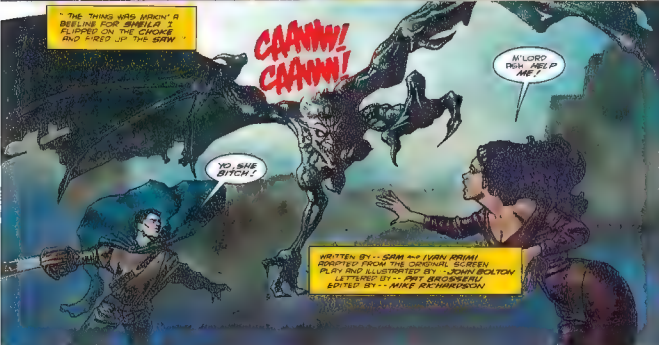
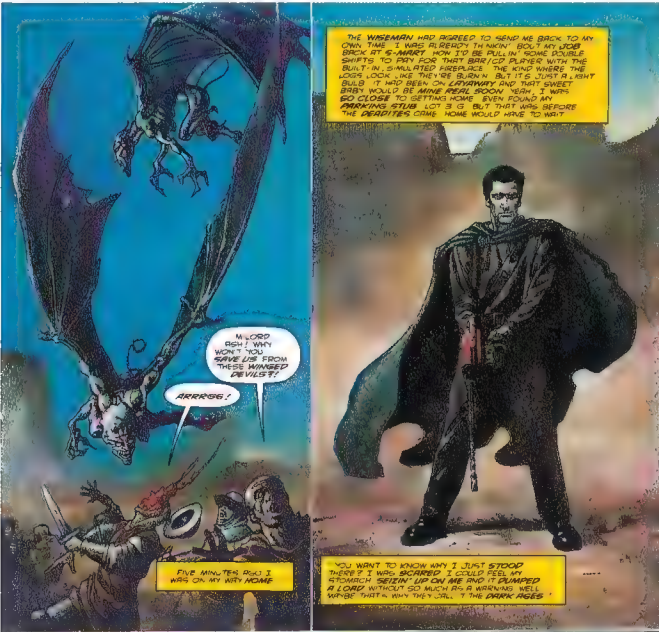
























THE CLANG-CLANG-CLANGING OF FOOT BRIND THE TENSED WHIRLING OF HOT SAILS THAT MARCHED UP. I THOUGHT THE BEST ONE I COULD FINALLY SEE HIM

I COULD HEAR HIM BECAUSE I COULD SEE HIM

THE ARMY OF DARKNESS

AS LONG AS THEY DON'T GET TO THE MOON

EVERYBODY KNOWS THE MARCHING OF DEATH AND WHO PULLING IN ALL ANIMATED I WENT TELLING MYSELF I'D GET THROUGH THIS I'D MAKE IT HOME

I'LL COME DOWN TO YOU

AS THE OLD GUY AT THE FURBER ON THE BLACK HORNED HORSE I WONDERED IF THERE I WOULD A LITTLE HEAVY-HANDS ON THE SULPHUR MIX

STEADY NOW, BOYS, STEADY, LET 'EM GET A LITTLE CLOSER CLOSER AND

FIRE!

SNOOSH SNOOSH SNOOSH

AWHEEEEE

BA-BLAM!

AWKKK!

FORWARD!

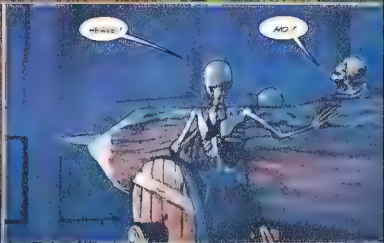
BOOM!

TO THE CASTLE!

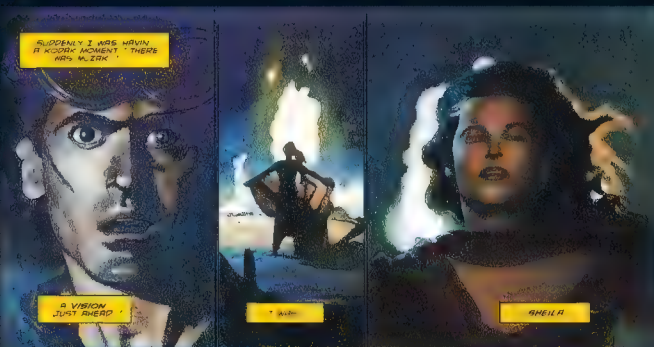
OUTPATIENTS















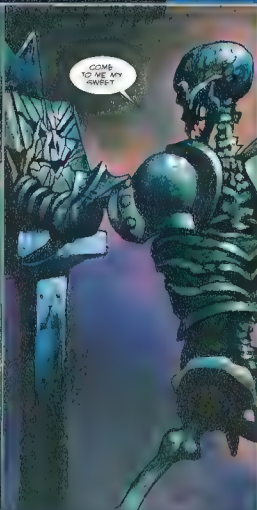




HE PUNCHED A  
JEAN-CLAUDE  
VON DRAME  
ON THE



"TUMBLING OVER THE  
WALL, I GRABBED AT  
THE WALL AND  
SCRAMBLER UP TO  
REACH MY ARM AND  
DIDN'T HAVE THE BIG  
NIGHTLY TO SCREAM



COMES  
TO ME MY  
MISTY



I DID NOT HAVE MY  
SHOULDER WAS JUST  
THAT BIG AND I THINK  
I WOULD BURST A KIDNEY

IF I EVER GOT HOME I WOULD  
TIP TELL HIM IT HAPPENED IN  
THE MOUNTAINS AS I WAS  
YOU CAN CLIMB WORKMEN'S  
COMP FOR THAT STUFF LOTS  
OF GUYS TO



THE WIND WHISTLED  
THROUGH HIS BONES AS  
HE LEFT HE WAS COMING  
DOWN TO GET SOME BROTHER  
I CAN I KNOW IF I WOULD  
LEFT TO DRINK IT I WAS  
RUNNING IN VARIOUS



EDGE WITHHEAD  
TO HARKEN'S LAST  
MOMENT BEING WITH  
NEED TO MY  
TRULYSHIP



WELL



I AM HEREY THE RED AND  
HIS BONES THEY WERE TOO  
LATE BUT THEY WERE ALL  
THE DISTRACTION I NEEDED



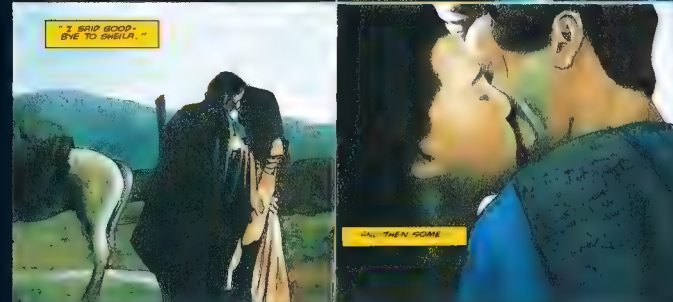
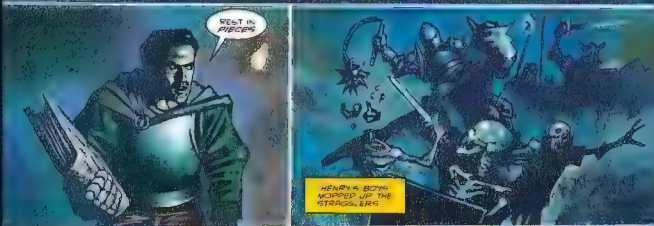
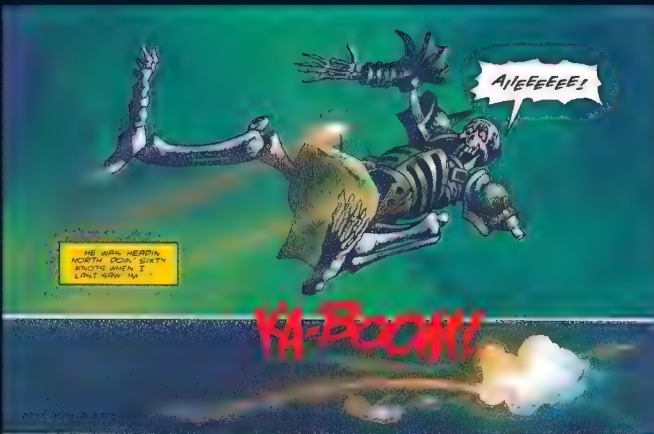
I DISCARDED  
THE

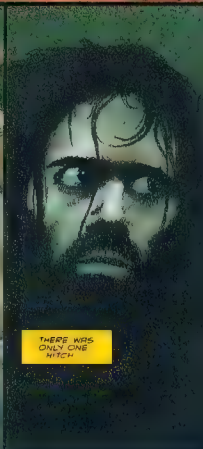


SLICE

THEN I  
SPRANG THE  
CHAINS









I'D KEPT TOO LONG

DEAR  
GOD, THEY  
SCREWED  
ME

**End**

# RENAISSANCE MEN

by Kurt Busiek

*Bruce Campbell talks about*

*Renaissance Pictures*

*the significance of Shemp*

*and other mysteries.*

*Renaissance Pictures, the production company responsible for Army of Darkness, as well as the previous Evil Dead films, isn't your everyday movie company. To find out more, Kurt Busiek talked to Bruce Campbell, who was co-producer of Army of Darkness in addition to starring in the film. This interview was conducted in 1992, before the release of Army of Darkness in 1993.*

*Tell me a little about how Renaissance came together. I know there's Sam and Ivan Raimi and you and Robert Tapert...*

The nucleus right now is Rob and Sam. Ivan comes in to write projects, but he's not officially a Renaissance-ian—although he, Ted Raimi and myself are usually involved in some way in these different films. Rob, Sam and myself, in '79, officially started the company, and the name Renaissance comes from—see, Detroit has had a lot of upheavals, a lot of bad economic times, and at the time they were trying to come up with an uplifting name for the city, so they called it 'The Renaissance City.' It had nowhere else to go but up (laughter). I think they thought that was a good, upbeat name and we thought, well, what the heck, so we called ourselves Renaissance Pictures and went from there.

*You and Sam met when you were kids, right?*

Yeah, in 1975. We met in high school, his first year of high school, my second—I'm one year ahead of Sam. We met in a loser drama class and then had a couple of other classes

together. We had radio speech together, where we would do the morning announcements show and stuff like that. So we shared a mutual interest.

At the time, he was doing magic shows, and doing some film experimenting in his neighborhood. Everything was based on neighborhoods because you went to junior high with the people in your neighborhood, and then high school was like a gathering of all the different neighborhoods. In junior high I met some other guys—Scott Spiegel, who co-wrote *Evil Dead 2*, and one or two other people—and then high school was where we had a chance to meet other neighborhoods. And so Sam was in his neighborhood, doing his magic shows and stuff, and I was in my neighborhood, working with some other guys, doing Super-8 movies, sometimes regular-8 movies, real experimental stupid sort of stuff. Sam and I met in drama class and had that mutual interest, so we started to do Super-8 films together after school and on weekends. I think for Sam it was a logical progression from magic—movies are sort of the ultimate sleight of hand. I can't speak for him 100%, but I know it certainly fascinated him, whatever he could do to torment the audience, and to fool them.

*What were the two of you like back then?*

It was a pretty carefree situation. We used to have an act called *The Bonzoid Sisters*, where we would dress up in long underwear and do sort of loser Andy Kaufman type acrobatics, where you're not even really doing acrobatics, you're just making a bunch of noise. We did a lot of community plays together, a lot of plays in high school. I'm happy to say Sam is the only guy who's a bigger ham than I am, as an actor. He's acting right now in a film up in Toronto.

*What's the film?*

It's a Mike Binder film. I don't know the name of it—at one point it was called *Northern Lights*. [Note: It came out as *Indian Summer*.] It's about the camp where Sam went as a kid, and the guy who's writing

and directing it also went to the camp, so it's a big nostalgia trip. Sam's been in a bunch of John Landis movies too.

*He just showed up in a small role in Landis's Innocent Blood, as a mob-connected guy working in a meat warehouse.*

I think he's in *Spies Like Us*. There was a scene where a bunch of thug directors are all guarding a movie theater, so he and the Coen brothers were in that, and Sam was in a Coen brothers film. Sam starred in *Thou Shalt Not Kill*, Except... a low-budget film that I was involved in the story on.

You know, when we grew up, everybody did everything. Everybody sort of contributed ideas, Sam was in films as well, and I would work behind the scenes on films. When it came time to do our first real-life film, it was only because of the pressures of advancing age. You know, what are you going to do, now that high school's over? What are you about? Make up your mind. That whole Midwest pressure. We thought, well, let's make films. I didn't have any family pressure, because my dad hated his job, so I had no problems. Sam had to overcome a few more things, I think, like pressure to get involved in the family business, which I think fueled him just to work harder at movies.

When it came time to do the first *Evil Dead*, which was '79, that's when we gave each other specific roles. You direct, and you're the actor... We had met Rob Tapert at Michigan State

*Did you go to Michigan State?*

No, that's one of the great illusions. I'll get lumped into that 'and then they all went to Michigan State,' but I never really went to college. I went for about half a year, and then got too antsy and got in to work as a P.A., a production assistant for a commercial director for about a year. Sam graduated high school in '77, then went up to Michigan State and met Rob Tapert, who was one of his roommates. Rob was in a completely different field at that point. He was getting a degree in economics, and I think he was also in

Fisheries and Wildlife (laughs). Much different fields, although economics is certainly similar to what he's doing now.

Sam did a couple of films out of Michigan State, and I would come up on weekends and help. One film that was actually very successful was called *The Happy Valley Kid*. It was all about an MSU student who's driven mad and takes revenge on all his crazy professors in a Clint Eastwood sort of way.

*That sounds so—so unlike a Sam Raimi film.*

Yeah, right (laughter).

It was actually an interesting film, and it made a lot of money! It was this little cheeseball Super-8 movie that cost, I don't know, five or six hundred dollars and made like five thousand or something. In those days, that was a big, big moneymaker. Sam and Scott Spiegel followed it up with this big epic called *It's Murder*. They wanted to do the same thing, but it was the *Heaven's Gate* of Super-8 movies.

I would always come and go on those films. I would fill in for somebody who had to leave because people had dentist's appointments and stuff like that, or they'd go back to school. We'd get involved in making these epic Super-8 films, and come Fall, we'd be the only losers who didn't have to go back to school. So we'd have to just make sure they left the costumes, and we'd put the hats and coats on and go fake it, which is where the term 'fake shemp' comes from.

*Yeah, I've noticed the term 'shemp' coming up a lot in the credits to your movies. What does that mean?*

Well, we were all Stooges fans, and the Stooges used to make two or three shorts at the same time. It all depended on what sets were available at Columbia. Like they'd make a *Knights of the Round Table* movie at Columbia, which was an A-picture, and then the Stooges would come in and go, "No, no, no, leave the set up for two days," and then they'd shoot *Court Jesters* or something, and do pickup shots later on. They would just

shoot the big stuff, so they were always constantly finishing these shorts off much later. But it didn't matter, the Stooges never changed for like thirty years, and it was all black and white, so they could intercut the stuff easily. One of the guys, Shemp Howard, who did a bunch of the shorts, died while they were making some, so they had to finish them off with a fake Shemp.

*I get it.*

They had this guy come in, covering his face, going, "Oh oh oh Moe! Oh oh!", and just to get him out of the scene Moe would go, "Yeah, Shemp, guard the door!" And he would go off. In high school, we would just howl because it was so fake, it was so cheesy, it was so obviously not Shemp. The more we learned about the Stooges, we knew that they had to fake these things together, so in all of our Super-8 movies we would always put people in the background, covering their faces and stuff, and those became 'fake shemps.' The term got hooked up with anybody who we used in the movie whose face you didn't see. Like, a hand comes in and grabs the shower curtain, or feet are walking across the floor, which, when you go back in films and 'pick up' the shots you're missing, you do with somebody who's not the real actor.

It became an expanded term. "What are you doing on Saturday night?" "Nothing, I'm just shemping." "Let's go shemp around somewhere." "What's the guy like, is he an idiot?" "Nah, he's just a shemp," meaning he's no big deal. "Did you have a good time?" "It was sort of a shemp time, we didn't really do anything." So the term became synonymous with things that aren't substantial, or are fake, or whatever. We've been trying to spread it on different film shoots out here, and it works well, cause you can go, "Ah, shemp that thing over about a foot," or whatever.

So that's the history of that.

*When you came together with Rob Tapert at that point, the Renaissance nucleus was formed. What was Rob like?*



Rob was the first one who knew anything about business.

*That's always a help.*

Yeah. Sam and I were like, this'd be cool, that'd be cool. But when we said, yeah, we want to make a movie, a full-length real movie for theaters, we didn't really know where to start to get the dough. Rob was the guy who said, "Look, you guys, you need to get what's called a prospectus, to form a limited partnership." Rob had had his brushes with the law, as a crazy youth from Grosse Pointe, Michigan, and he had a family lawyer who they'd known for years. So we approached him on a whim, and he said, "Yeah, I've never done any motion picture law, let's give it a try." We worked out a deal with him that if we got the money, he'd get paid a good salary, but if we didn't, we were just on the hook for some expenses. Based on Rob's suggestion, what the lawyer helped us figure out was a limited partnership, an entity to raise money for the first film. We started raising money in the spring or summer of '79.

*That limited partnership, that was Renaissance Pictures?*

Yeah, Renaissance Pictures Limited. We've since done another offering, for this film, Lunatics: A Love Story, called Renaissance Pictures II Limited. It's like that

*Silver Screen Partners.*

Yeah. Disney always has Silver Screen 9 and 10 and so on. We're a low-rent version of that, but usually it's Renaissance this, Renaissance that. The name has just sort of stuck.

*You mentioned how when you were kids, everybody did everything and things started to coalesce into different areas when you grew up and had to start taking things at least partly seriously—but you still seem to share the responsibilities to some degree. For instance, I've read that you scouted locations for Army of Darkness.*

Partially for Army of Darkness, more for films like Evil Dead 2, where it was still

kind of a home-grown situation. You've got to split up the duties, and having three partners adds up to be about right. Sam was trying to write, Rob was trying to get the deal all locked down, and I was just doing whatever else was left.

*There wasn't acting to do yet, so—*

—so you might as well get yourself set up for the film. We just split up the duties according to what had to be done. And then, when it gets into serious pre-production, then I take the producer hat off and put the actor hat on.

*At that point, acting becomes a full time job?*

Pretty much. With Army of Darkness I had to get out of production fairly early, because I had to learn how to ride a horse, I had to take swordfighting lessons, all these silly things.

*Gosh, sounds rough.*

Unfortunately, it sounds much more glamorous than it was. Getting thrown off a horse is a real un-glamorous thing.

*Sure, but for all that—you think about a job where one of the requirements is learning how to use a sword, and every kid in America thinks, "That's a job I want!"*

Yeah, I know. That's how it happened with me.

I really do blame my dad, because he was in advertising, and didn't like it. As a diversion, he got into community theater. I saw him in 1965, I think, when I was seven or eight, in a play called The Pajama Game. There was my dad in this silly outfit, wearing makeup and dancing with strange women who weren't my mother and singing and really having a good time, and I thought, "Boy, I want to do that," because then I could stay foolish, you know. So it was a natural outgrowth of that; he didn't hassle me at all when I said I wanted to be a phony actor. He said, "Fine, whatever."

*"Just don't go into advertising."*



Yeah. "Whatever you do, don't go into advertising."

*I'd like to talk about how you and Rob work as co-producers a little bit. Most people kind of understand what a screenwriter does, what an actor does and to some degree what a director does, but a producer is this weird miasma of we-don't-know-what—*

He does everything else. We still sort of break that up, too. We're all involved in the script phases, as far as notes. Sam will be the ultimate arbiter of ideas, but Rob and I will get our two cents in, sometimes with an eye on costs, but hopefully not as the emphasis. I think our whole point is to support the creative aspect of it, because if the movie sucks, what's the point of producing it?

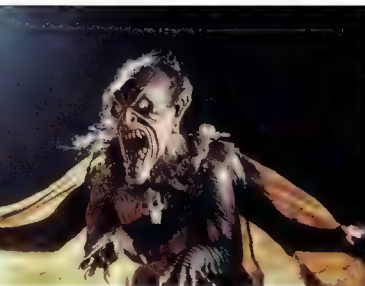
We're also involved with gathering the crew at the beginning. Like, do we need a good D.P. (director of photography), let's start talking to people, like that. It's a combination of who you can afford versus who Sam can deal with. Sam would ultimately like the best of everything, so you try to find people who are really eager, really willing to work—we'll find someone who's never been a production designer before and upgrade

them, so we use them at a decent rate and give them a better credit than they've ever had—and someone who'll also satisfy Sam's needs. So we have to play games like that.

It's the same with casting. Sam can't always be there. Being in the writing, he's always rewriting, so sometimes, we'll act as babysitters at a casting session. Put people on video, so Sam can see them later. For example, I can't speak for Rob 100%, but I know he's less interested in casting, in sitting through all those sessions of nervous actors and actresses saying the same words over and over again, whereas I might be more sympathetic. I might say, "Try this, try that," or whatever. Of course, that's when Sam's not around. If he's available, then he's the director, he's the guy who should be there. Sam's there for the lead roles, the big secondary roles—but then, if we have to get the blacksmith or the whatever, it's no big deal. He doesn't have to be there for that, but he'll look at the tape and select it.

Rob is very involved in the budget. He'll be really involved with accountants and all the cash flow and all that nonsense. He's real good at tracking—his main job during the production is tracking the costs—like, we

thought we could fill that hill full of extras, but we can't, so we either limit the shot or get more extras. I pity him as much as anyone during the shoot, because he's constantly juggling a limited amount of numbers. On the Evil Dead movies, you know, they're currently only worth so much worldwide, and no one's going to just give you a blank check. We don't deal in the 'A' world, not at this point, so every dollar means something. And



if you steal it from some category, something's going to pay somewhere, so the trick is to wisely shuffle it around. That's most of Rob's job, running around like a madman trying to plug the leaks in the dike.

Rob is not all that interested in post-production; that's when I get back into it. After shooting's over, we give our two cents' worth as far as editing. We let Sam go off and do his thing, and then we get involved. I might get my two cents' worth in about a certain take, because Sam may be looking for a take from a technical point of view—the camera move was a little smoother, a little better—but I'm going, "Yeah, but look at that, I'm doing this funny thing just before it gets there," or whatever.

And then I get very involved in the sound, because Sam has to deal with the opticals, if it's a real heavily optical-oriented show. And sitting with actors. Now that shooting is done, you still have to sit with the actors to replace all their lines, because of the wind fans through the whole movie. That can get really tedious, so it goes to whoever's

willing to sit there. I generally am—and Sam, again, he'll be there for the lead actors. A producer is just a free-floating agent—you pitch in and take the burden off the real pressure points. And we're not all just numbers jockeys.

Rob likes certain cool things, and he'll make notes about what he thinks is really cool, and all that. He'll suggest that, you know, we need more horses, or whatever. He won't always be trying to take horses away, which is what a lot of producers do. They specialize in what you can't have. Rob's pretty good at going, "You can have this—if we do this." It's all about juggling. People tend to interview directors and writers and actors; they think producers are just those mean guys who say no. But Rob's the guy who does the work.

*Some producers might be in a position of being adversarial, you know—if I dig my feet in and try to make it as cheap as possible and the director digs his feet in and tries to make it as cool as possible, we'll end up with something that works.' But it sounds like at Renaissance, the two of them are working together. Sam is going to be sympathetic to money concerns, and Rob is going to be sympathetic to Sam's concerns—*

Yeah, and I think it's worked out pretty well. Like, on a movie they're doing now, Hard Target, Sam's not in town, so Rob is assuming a lot of those pre-production duties. As long as everybody's into it to make cool movies, then you don't have any big problems. If people are just stooges for the studio, then what's the point of having them as partners? We could hire someone to do that.

*You mentioned before that Ivan Raimi, Sam's brother and writing partner, is sort of another Renaissance floater. He's not always there—*

Right, because he's a doctor. He's not going to put on a tie and come into the office every day. He works his fourteen days per month in an emergency room and then writes scripts by night. The classic Hollywood tale (laughter). I'm glad he

moved out here, because it was more of a commitment. Fortunately, doctors are a little more free to move around, because people seem to run into walls in every state, get hit by cars and things like that.

*What a good thing that is.*

Yeah, what a wonderful thing that is (laughter).

Ivan was in the background for a while, and then for whatever reason started to voice his interest, and being Sam's brother, they have an immediate sensibility as writing partners. Collaborating is, I think, a good idea in many cases. Sometimes if you hole yourself up and try to do something, it works, but other times it's good to have somebody to go, "What are you thinking about? That's ridiculous!" So Ivan moved out here to Hollywood—he used to have a practice in Ohio, and now that he's trained, and has his certifications and whatever, he's out here. The Hollywood script doctor (groans).

*Dividing his time between medicine and movies, eh? I was going to ask if there's such a thing as a typical day at Renaissance Pictures, but it doesn't seem like there is.*

It's pretty hectic. We haven't had a lot of training in the administrative arts. I think if we were more organized, productions wouldn't be so hectic, but we've been sort of learning as we go.

*Always something new cropping up?*

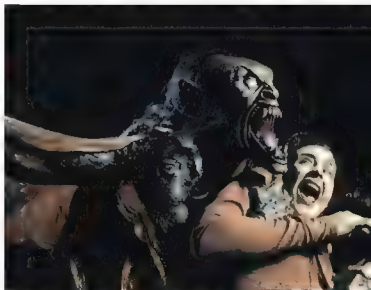
What Renaissance is subject to now, they have a deal over at Universal, and this concept of development deals was never around when I was there. I was kind of an official Renaissance guy until the end of Evil Dead 2, which was around '87, and I've since watched the guys get embroiled in studio deals. The business starts to become capital-B at that point—you're starting to deal with long-term contracts with big studios, the fine print gets longer and longer, the contracts get longer and it starts to get a little further away from moviemaking, but those guys have done a pretty good job of just wanting to do cool movies.

*Speaking of business with a capital B, there was some legal trouble holding up the release of Army of Darkness. How's that progressing?*

Well, supposedly, it's done. The legal brouhaha has ended, we had our first preview—we're making some editing changes based on the preview—and it's got a release date now, of January 15th, I think. Which is kinda fun, because it never really had that before, and a lot of people were always, "Yeah, yeah sure, we'll get interested—get a release date first." As far as PR and promotion and marketing and all that stuff, people wouldn't really do anything until there was a date. Now it's like, okay, now we've got a modus operandi here.

*I heard that Army might be being re-cut to make it a PG-13?*

I don't know. I think the studio would love it, but at this point, it's in one of these great nebulous categories called "the cumulative effect" that the MPAA likes to throw out.



They go, "Look guys, I don't know what it is, but there's just something about it that's just too much. It's an 'R'." We've toned it down some. When skeletons get stabbed or sliced, you see like, piles of dust—you don't see geysers of blood, you don't see any impact, you don't see any throats being slit—

*And there are no young women being molested by trees, huh?*



No, they're just courted by trees now. What it is, it's a combination of how much the studio can bully the MPAA—I don't think it's any mystery that studios have much more

you're really lingering on a guy's horrified reaction, and so what you get—Evil Dead 2 is kind of like a Roadrunner thing, he gets doused with blood and brushes himself off



pull than the average dogface—and of how much Dino and his good friend Mr. Valenti can see eye to eye. I think it's still going to be 'R' because it's not totally a kids' movie. But if it's PG-13, that's fine, as long as they leave something in there. [Note: Army of Darkness was ultimately rated R.] As long as you don't have a series of reaction shots looking at nothing.

*Like watching one of the Halloween movies on broadcast TV?*

It's ridiculous. With Evil Dead 2 they tried to make an R-rated version. We screwed around with it sometime late in '87, because some places didn't want an un-rated version. What they did was cut all the gore out and add in all these reaction shots of Ash—and the weird thing is, I actually think it made it worse! You can't tell what you're seeing, and

and keeps going. He doesn't really react to everything. But they took the mayhem out and just cut to this guy reacting, so rather than just sort of brushing it off and making it a big Tex Avery cartoon, it became more of a melodrama. So it never got made. No one wanted it, because it sucked that way.

*So what's Renaissance Pictures currently up to? You mentioned that Sam is currently making a movie called Hard Target?*

Sam and Rob are producing it, with about nine other producers, for Jean-Claude van Damme. It's a big action thing with this Hong Kong director, John Woo. It's his first American movie.

*The guy who directed The Killer? That John Woo? That's going to be great. The Killer was such an over-the-top extravaganza, incredibly violent and incredibly funny.*

Yeah. I just recently became familiar with John's work—he's an animal, and I think it'll be really cool. And a guy like Jean-Claude, for whatever people's feeling are about him, I think a really strong director would give him a chance to be a real contender.

*Beyond Hard Target, what's coming up? Is there a Renaissance project you're involved in?*

Yeah, actually. Rob and Sam are executive producing this thing called The Clumsy Idiot. We had written this thing called The Nutty Nut, Scott Spiegel and myself and Sam and Ron Zwing. All of our Super-8 movies were slapstick, they had nothing to do with horror, nothing. It's when we got responsible and raised people's money that we went, "Okay, we have to do something that's tried and true and that we can get away with low budget," and all that stuff. And Sam is interested in fantasy and horror, but I watched Lost in Space and Gilligan's Island, what do I know about horror? I never read Creepy magazine, I read Sad Sack and Richie Rich and all the loser comic books. But we got into this whole horror thing, and it really went from there. So we wanted to go back in the other direction and try regular old slapstick. It wound up that the project kind of got taken away from Scott, and rewritten, so we all took our names off it. [Note: It ultimately came out as The Nut House, in 1992.] What we want to do now is do something like that again but have more control over it. So Rob and Sam are the execs, I'll be the clumsy idiot, and Scott Spiegel will write and direct with myself and Ron Zwing. So that's what's coming up.

I know the guys have their own slate of stuff that I'm not 100% privy to; they've got four or five things in fairly serious development. And I know Sam eventually wants to do this big period epic adventure film called

The Gold of the Valdez, although I don't know the exact status of it—I know that it's being written right now. A film like that, in my opinion, would put Sam pretty much with the big boys. The other half of Sam is that he likes films like Treasure of the Sierra Madre; he likes a lot of John Huston's work. I'm a little bit out of that loop; I just sort of come and go like the wind.

Oh yeah, and we did this film Lunatics: A Love Story together, that we finished last year. Rob and Sam again, they were the executive producers, and I produced it with one other guy, David Goodman, and raised the money back in Detroit from our old investors. That's out on video now, and it's a nice little film, pretty much two crazy people who fall in love. Josh Becker wrote and directed it. Josh is another old crony that goes back to our super-8 days.

*Seems like all your old cronies are in movies.*

Yeah, really! Well, it's a cool world, because it's always nice to work with people that you know. It's fine to meet new people and stuff, but it's always good to be able to go, "Look, let's just do this thing with Joe Blow here, and we'll know what we're going to get." So we did that, and it made money for the investors, and now we're hoping to do another couple of small films like that. I like doing those—if I had my druthers, I'd make low-budget independent movies for the rest of my life, as long as I had control.

*Well, that brings you full circle, from making Super-8 movies with your pals to Hollywood and back again. I hope Army of Darkness is a big hit for you, and puts Renaissance in a position to do all the different projects you want.*

It better, doggone it. Otherwise, I'm gonna be pissed. (Laughter).

*The  
End*

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YOUR  
MAJESTY?  
THERE'S  
SOMETHING  
HERE TO SEE  
YOU!



KING  
SCOURGE

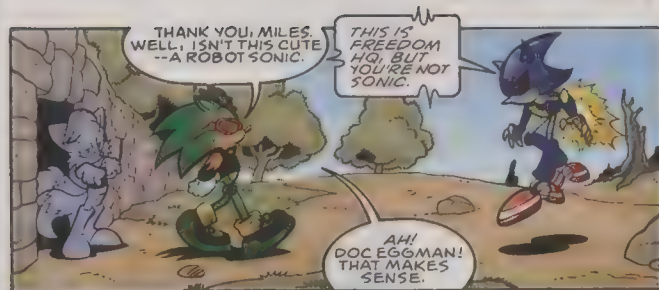
Invader from  
Mobius

METAL SONIC  
Killer Robot  
Double

KNUCKLES  
Troubled  
Guardian

SONIC  
Hero of  
Mobius

JULIE-SU  
Knuckles's  
Partner



THANK YOU, MILES.  
WELL, ISN'T THIS CUTE  
--A ROBOT SONIC.

THIS IS  
FREEDOM  
HQ, BUT  
YOU'RE NOT  
SONIC.

AH!  
DOC EGGMAN!  
THAT MAKES  
SENSE.



YOU USED TO KNOW ME AS  
THE ANTI-SONIC. I'VE GOTTEN  
MY ACT--AND MY WORLD--  
IN ORDER, SO IT'S "KING  
SCOURGE" NOW. I BOOTED  
SONIC'S BLUE BUTT, AND  
HIS BUDDIES OUT A  
COUPLE OF DAYS  
BACK.



OH-HO! I  
WASN'T AWARE  
WELL, THAT  
CHANGES MY  
PLANS FOR  
TODAY.

HONEST  
MISTAKE. I'LL LET  
YOU KNOW WHEN  
I'M READY TO  
CONQUER YOUR  
PARTS OF THE  
PLANET.

THEN AGAIN,  
WHY PASS UP  
ONE UPPITY  
HEDGEHOG  
FOR  
ANOTHER?



MEANWHILE, IN NEW MOBOTROPOLIS...

WHAT'S UP FOR DEBATE? WE'VE RESTED UP, SO LET'S GO KICK SOME INTER-DIMENSIONAL BUTT!

SCOURGE MAY HAVE CONQUERED THE ANTI-MOBIUS...

"MOEBIUS."

...BUT OUR WORLD IS DIFFERENT. HE WON'T MAKE HIS GAINS SO EASILY.

BESIDES, CONSIDERING THE GAINS WE'VE MADE IN ROBOTNIK'S CITY,\* WE SHOULD FOCUS OUR ATTACKS ON HIM. WE CAN GET FREEDOM HQ BACK LATER.

\*REMEMBER? LAST ISSUE! (SIH # 190).

THE VOTE TO LEAVE FREEDOM HQ FOR NOW?

YEA.

NAY.

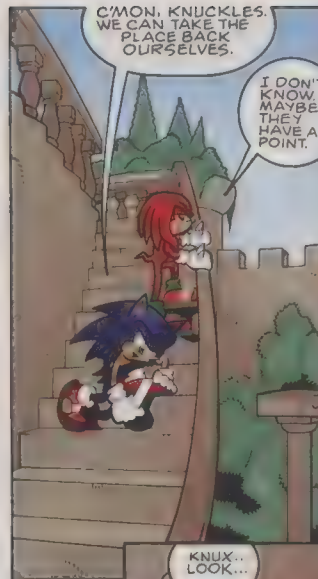
YEA.

NAY!

YEA.

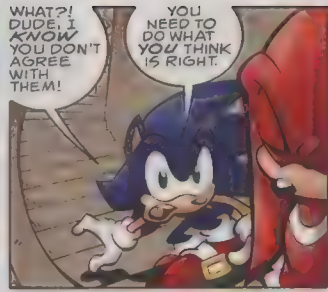
I'M SORRY, BUT THE COUNCIL VOTES...

YEAH, YEAH. WE'LL SEE ABOUT THAT.



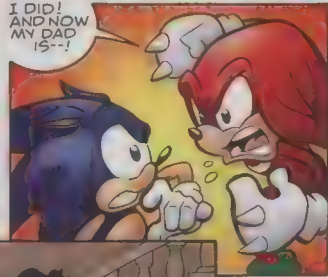
C'MON, KNUCKLES. WE CAN TAKE THE PLACE BACK OURSELVES.

I DON'T KNOW. MAYBE THEY HAVE A POINT.



WHAT? DUDE, I KNOW YOU DON'T AGREE WITH THEM!

YOU NEED TO DO WHAT YOU THINK IS RIGHT.

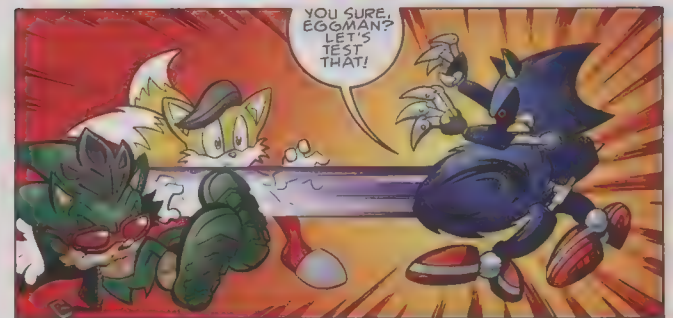
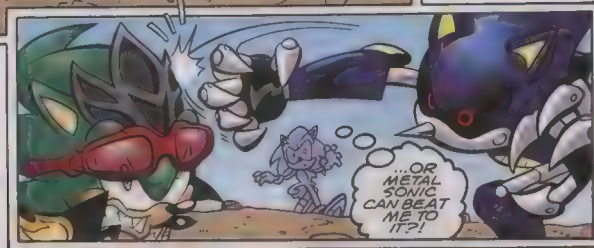
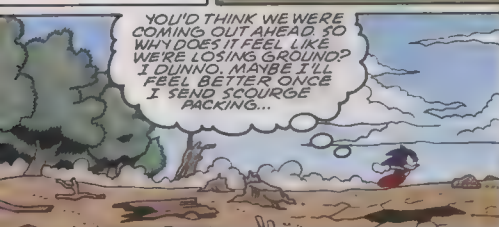
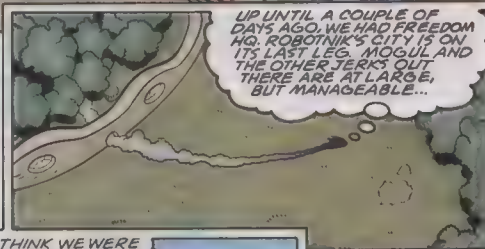


I DID! AND NOW MY DAD IS--!



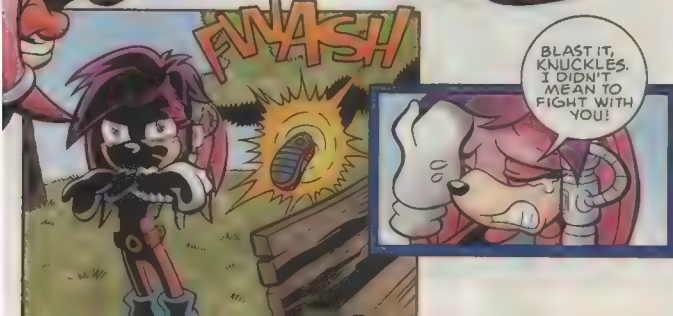
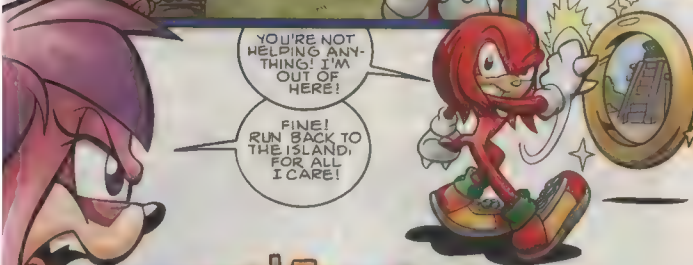
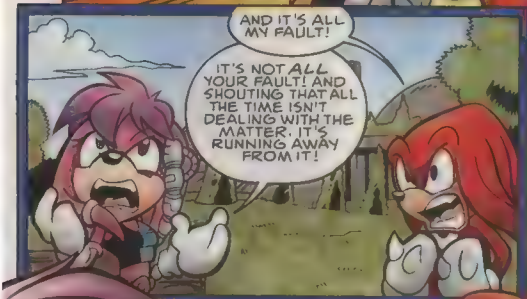
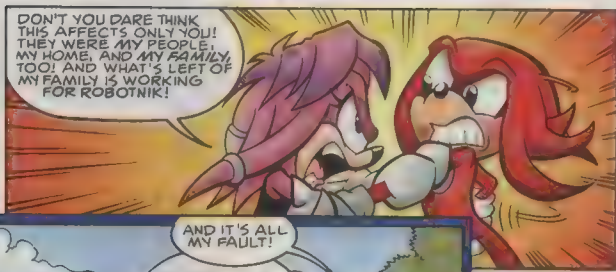
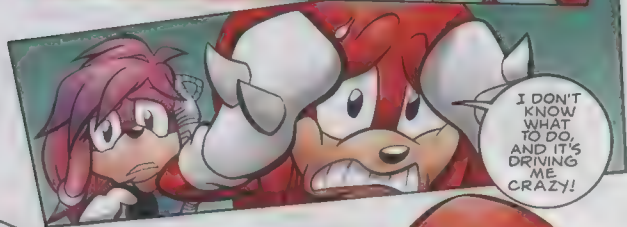
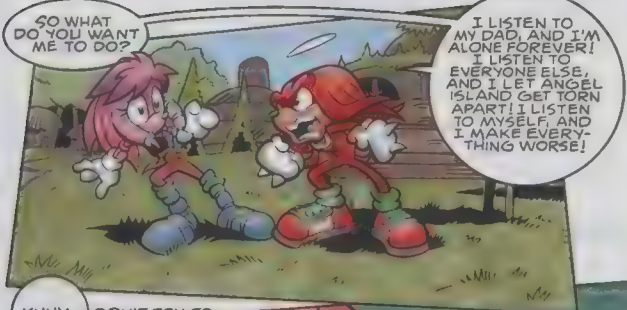
KNUX... LOOK...

DO WHATEVER YOU WANT.



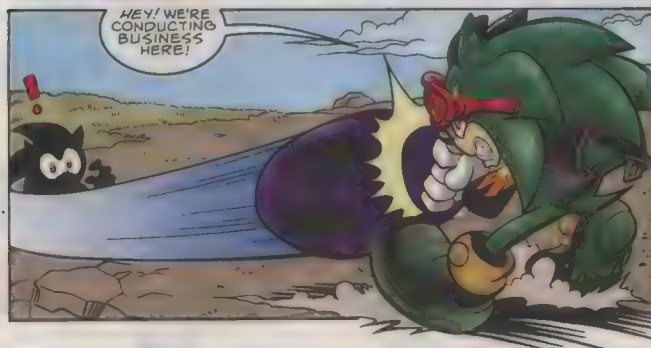
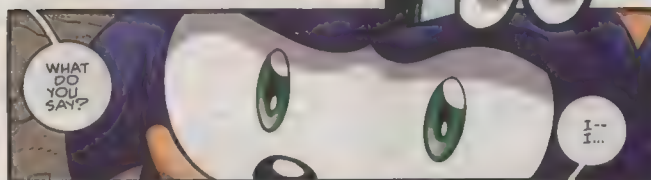












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ANGEL ISLAND...

IT SOUNDS LIKE SHE'S MORE WORRIED FOR YOU THAN ANYTHING. WE ALL ARE, LAD.

WHY IS HE SO GRUMPY, ARCHIMEDES?

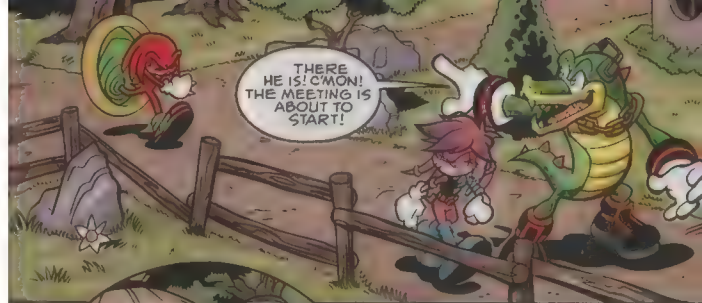
3 SIGH4 HE'S STILL GOT A LOT TO FIGURE OUT FROM BEING ENERJAK\*

\*THE EPIC STORY FROM 5TH #180-184

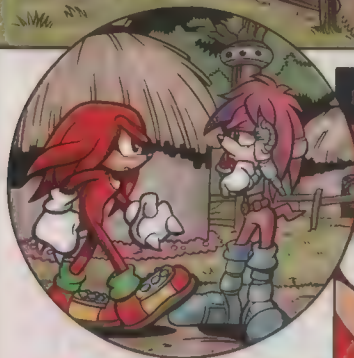
OH, OKAY. Y'KNOW, SOMETIMES MY THOUGHTS GET KINDA MIXED UP, TOO. BUT IF I GET ALL ANGRY ABOUT IT, I'LL JUST GET DISTRACTED. SO I JUST TELL MYSELF, "THERE WILL ALWAYS BE MORE FLOWERS."

THAT... WAS SURPRISINGLY RELEVANT.

GO ON, LAD. WE'VE GOT THINGS COVERED HERE.



THERE HE IS! C'MON! THE MEETING IS ABOUT TO START!



I'M MESSED UP RIGHT NOW. CAN I SAY "I'M SORRY" NOW AND WORK ON IT LATER?

SURE. I'M SORRY FOR YELLING

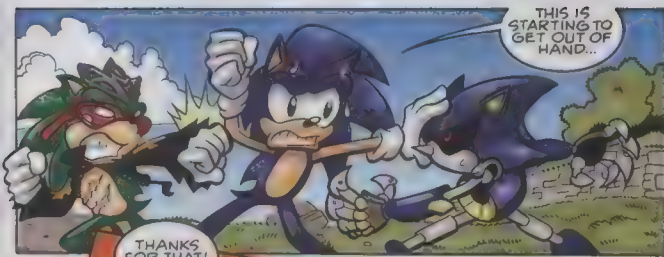
OKAY



SHOULD WE PUSH TO GO AFTER SONIC?

NAH. KNOWING HIM, HE'S GOT THINGS UNDER CONTROL.





**METAL SONIC AND METAL SCOURGE? SAY IT AIN'T SO! IT'S A TRIPLE DOSE OF DOUBLES IN THE EXCITING FINALE! UNTIL THEN, YOU CAN ENJOY SONIC X, THE SONIC ARCHIVES, AND THE BRAND NEW SONIC SELECT!**



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IN ANOTHER TIME

IN ANOTHER PLACE

ARE YOU SURE ABOUT THIS?

ABSOLUTELY! THIS IS THE ONLY CHAOS EMERALD LEFT, SO THE THIEVES HAVE TO COME HERE TO GET IT. WHEN THEY DO - WE'LL BE READY!

WHY NOT JUST TAKE THE CHAOS EMERALD AND HIDE IT?

BECAUSE I WANT TO SEE WHO THESE GUYS ARE AND TEACH 'EM A LESSON.

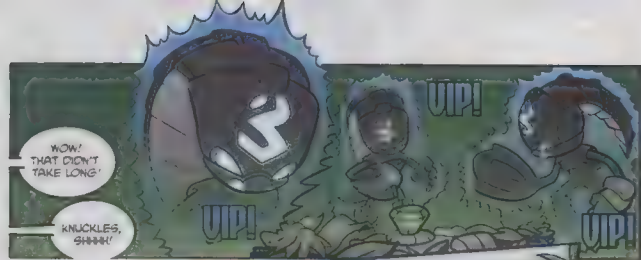
OH, OF COURSE.

WRITER: IAN FLYNN  
PENCILS: TRACY TARDLEY!  
INKS: JIM AMASH  
COLORS: JOSH RAY  
LETTERS: STIMRAY GRAPH WORKS

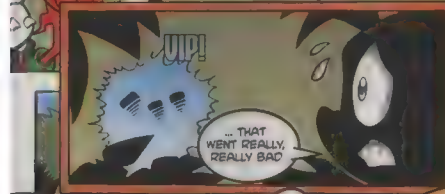
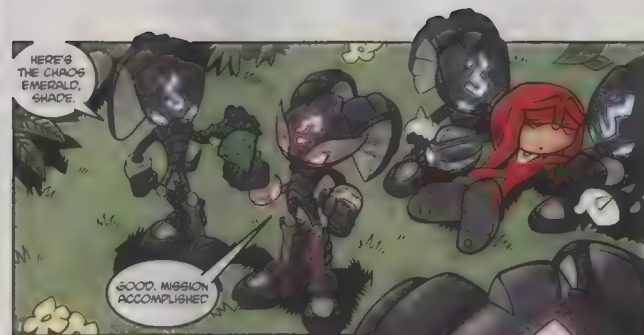
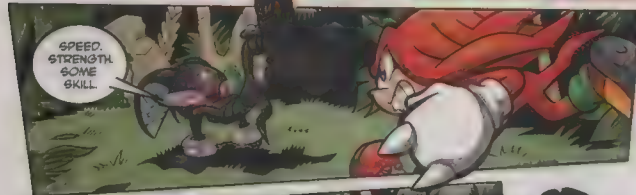
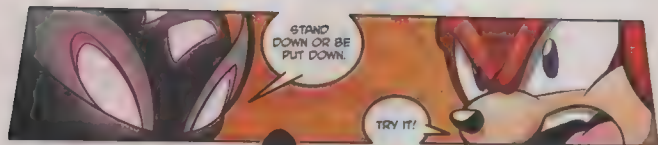
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**NEXT ISSUE: 192**

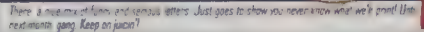
The image is the box art for the video game Sonic Heroes. It features the three main characters: Sonic the Hedgehog, Miles "Tails" Prower, and Knuckles the Echidna. They are depicted in a dynamic, action-oriented pose, surrounded by a swirling, colorful energy field. The title "SONIC" is prominently displayed at the top in a large, stylized font, with "HEROES" written below it in a smaller, blocky font. The background is a mix of red and black, with a large, stylized "S" shape behind the characters.

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in my life. For



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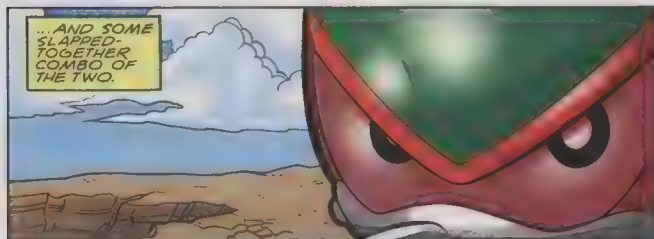
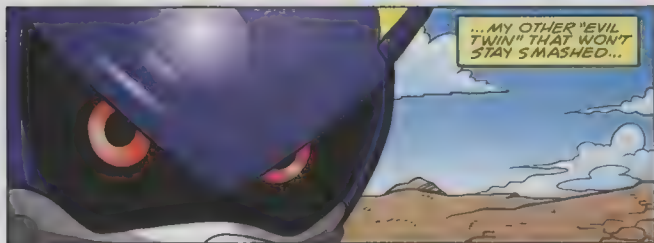
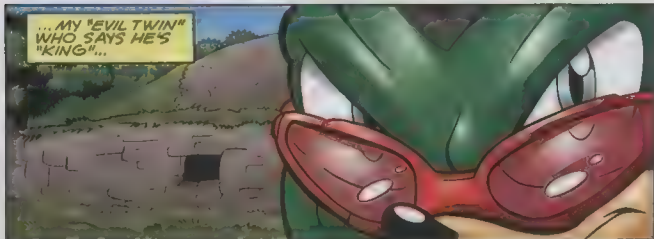
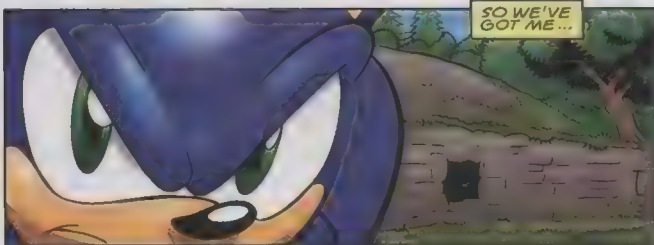
SEGA

SONIC

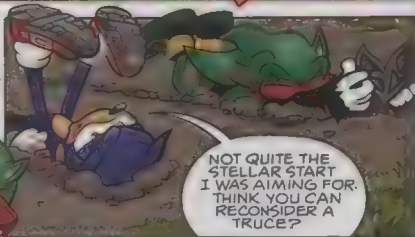
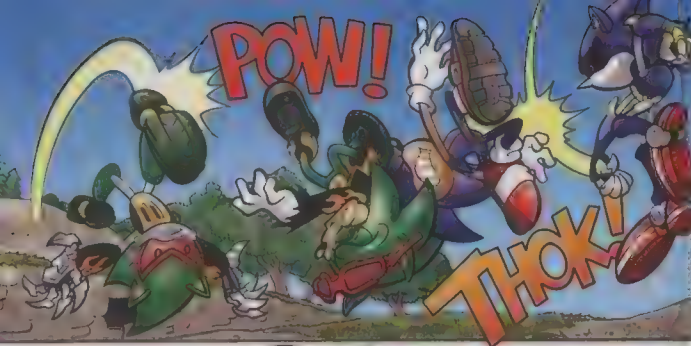
THE HEDGEHOG



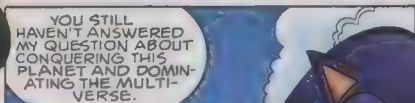
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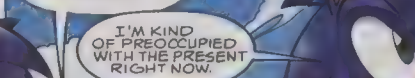




NOT QUITE THE  
STELLAR START  
I WAS AIMING FOR.  
THINK YOU CAN  
RECONSIDER A  
TRUCE?



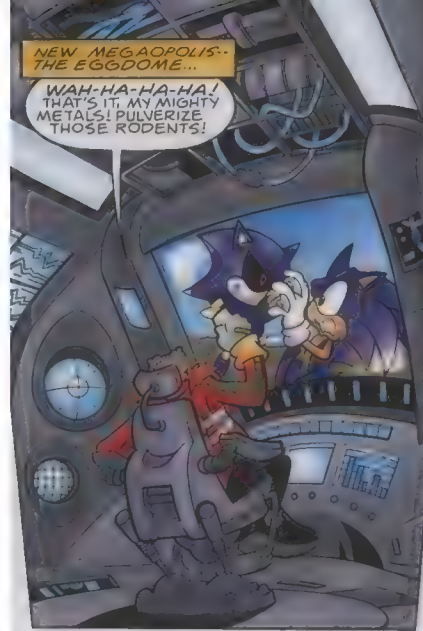
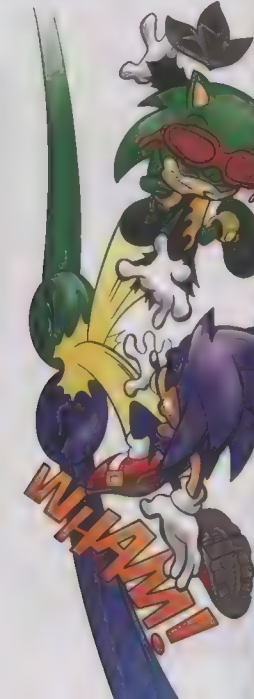
YOU STILL  
HAVEN'T ANSWERED  
MY QUESTION ABOUT  
CONQUERING THIS  
PLANET AND DOMINATING  
THE MULTI-  
VERSE.



I'M KIND  
OF PREOCCUPIED  
WITH THE PRESENT  
RIGHT NOW.



I'LL  
TAKE  
THAT  
AS A  
"YES."



NEW MEGAOPOLIS--  
THE EGGDOME...

WAH-HA-HA-HA!  
THAT'S IT, MY MIGHTY  
METALS! PULVERIZE  
THOSE RODENTS!



I AM IMPRESSED,  
DOCTOR. YOU HAVE  
HAD TIME TO CON-  
STRUCT TWO ROBOT  
DOPPELGANGERS  
IN HOURS.



AND YET YOU HAVEN'T  
HAD THE TIME OR THE  
RESOURCES TO BUILD  
A NEW BADNIK ARMY  
TO SUPPLEMENT THE  
DARK EGG LEGION.



HMM?  
OH, RIGHT, THE  
ECHIDNAS.  
LATER, I'M  
BUSY.

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DO REMEMBER, DOCTOR,  
THAT THE LEGIONNAIRES  
ARE MY PEOPLE.  
SOME OF THE LAST  
ECHIDNAS ALIVE.  
I WILL NOT ALLOW  
THEM TO BE USED CARE-  
LESSLY.

QUITE THE  
CONTRARY,  
DIMITRI!

I PLAN  
ON USING YOUR  
PEOPLE TO THE  
VERY LAST ONE.  
SINCE THERE ARE  
SO FEW, I HOPE  
THEY AREN'T  
USED UP TOO  
QUICKLY.



IF YOU HAVE  
ANY FURTHER  
COMPLAINTS OVER THE  
MANAGEMENT OF MY  
TROOPS, YOU CAN  
DISCUSS IT WITH THE  
EXPLOSIVES I PUT IN  
THE CYBERNETICS  
I SUPPLIED  
THEM WITH.







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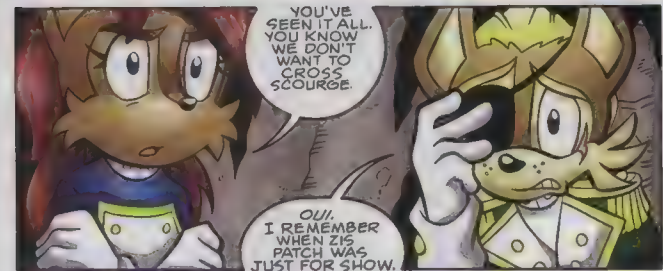
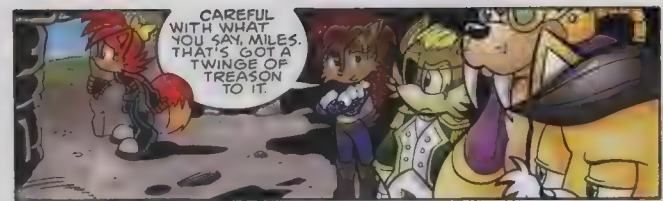
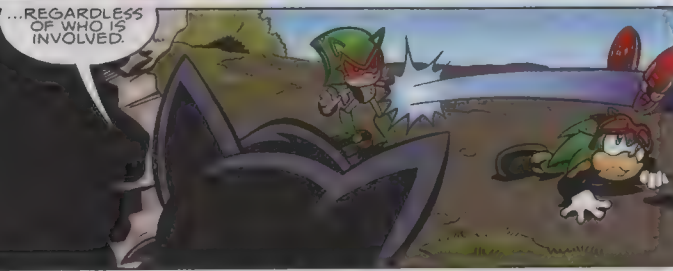
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THE EGGDOME--  
LEGION'S BARRACKS



COME HERE FOR  
A MOMENT.

GRAND-  
FATHER?!

BLAST IT, HE  
WASN'T BLUFF-  
ING THERE'S  
A BOMB.

BOMB?

IN ALL OF  
US, I'M  
AFRAID.

WHAT'S  
THE MEANING  
OF THIS?



THIS IS ALL YOUR  
FAULT! YOU'RE THE  
ONE WHO SOLD  
HIMSELF TO  
EGGMAN FIRST!

I CAME TO EGGMAN  
FOR AN ALLY AGAINST  
ENERJAK. \* YOU  
SOLD THE LEGION TO  
THE EMPIRE FOR YOUR  
CURSED CYBER-  
NETICS. \*\* DO NOT  
LAY THIS AT MY...  
FEET.

\* SEE SYN#183  
\*\* THEN SEE  
SYN#184!



SO WHAT DO WE DO?  
SURELY YOU'RE NOT  
THINKING OF TURNING  
TO KNUCKLES AT THIS  
POINT?

NO. NOT THE  
GUARDIAN.  
NOT YET.

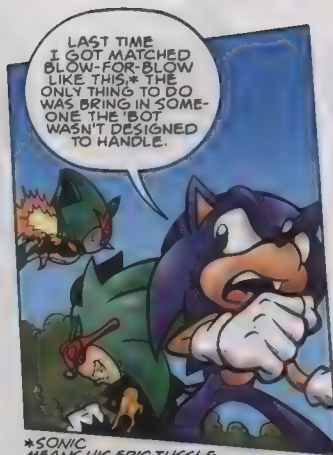
I AM GRANDMASTER  
OF THE LEGION NOW,  
LIEN-DA. THESE  
ARE MY PEOPLE,  
AND YOU ARE  
THE ONLY FAMILY  
I HAVE LEFT. I'LL  
THINK OF SOME-  
THING.







WE'RE GETTING WHOOPED, AND I DON'T LIKE THAT. YOU'RE THE BIG HERO. THINK OF SOMETHING!



LAST TIME I GOT MATCHED BLOW-FOR-BLOW LIKE THIS. THE ONLY THING TO DO WAS BRING IN SOMEONE THE 'BOT WASN'T DESIGNED TO HANDLE.

\*SONIC MEANS HIS EPIC TUSSLE WITH EGGMAN IN 5TH # 175.



OH, COME ON! YOU CAN'T MEAN...

THEY'RE YOUR TEAM. YOU MAKE THE CALL.

SUPPRESSION SQUAD! ATTACK!



BRING BACK MEMORIES, FIONA?

IN YOUR DREAMS.

KNEEL TO THE KING!

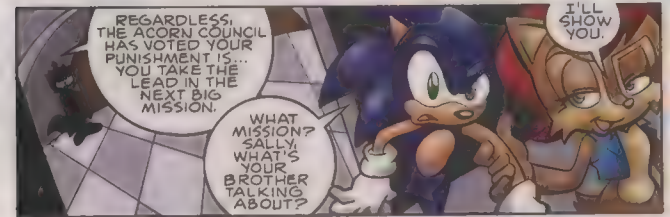


NOW THAT'S MORE LIKE IT! THANKS FOR THE HAND!

WE SEEM TO WORK SURPRISINGLY WELL TOGETHER.

YOU COULD SAY THAT.

BOOM BOOM













Well, it's pretty clear where Sonic gets his valor and heroism. Thanks to his father, our hero can rest easy until his next mission. Come back next time for SONIC THE HEDGEHOG #193!

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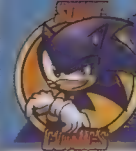
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# SONIC-GRAMS

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P.O. BOX # 419 MAHAWAHEE NY 10543-0419 E-MAIL: [SONIC@ARCHIECOMICS.COM](mailto:SONIC@ARCHIECOMICS.COM)

## LETTERS

Dear Sonic-Grams: Why don't you guys do a Shadow miniseries?

Because we love to make all you Shadow fans squirm

Or at least have him in more stories to let us know how he's doing, how he ended up working at G.U.N., and his relationship with Rouge. Is he going out with her as well as working with her? I don't think she'd be a good girlfriend, but she can probably handle him better than some Shadow needs someone who can be true to him and Rouge doesn't seem the type for a stable relationship

Whatever gave you THAT idea? Maybe the fact that she's a renowned thief and con-artist?

There are so many possibilities for developing this character. I'd like to know more of him. I've been

enjoying the Ian Flynn and Tracy Yardley team, the stories and art are great together, and they bring out the humor very well! The stories are keeping me on the edge of my seat. Thanks, Tracy and Ian, for your awesome work! It's been enjoyable to read. And you're almost at issue #200! You guys must be really excited. Hope it'll be special. Oh, and thanks for reprinting the early series into Archives. I'm collecting them all and enjoying them!

- MONICA S. WASHINGTON

When we're definitely fed up with the series, and all and having them. But thanks for the kudos, Monica! The Sonic Archives will definitely continue as long as there is a demand for them, as well as Sonic Select

Dear Sonic-Grams: My name is Patrick. I'm not going to be one of the biggest fan wannabes who claim to be Sonic's #1 fan

So I'm going to say I'm his #2 fan

Yes. Much better. I want to send in some fan art, but I think I'll brush up on my skills first. I want to get more comics, but I was lucky enough to convince my mom to let me get Sonic Archives and a 12-issue subscription. My favorite character used to be Tails, but now my favorite is Sonic. Well, that's about all I have to say. Tell Sonic, the Freedom Fighters, and the Chaotix that they're doing a great job in protecting Mobius, and tell Eggman to lay off the trans-fat!

- PATRICK D.

Hey, have you seen that guy's chair? If I had a seat as huge and comfy as Dr. Robotnik's, I wouldn't be getting much exercise either.

## FAN-ART

Jack M. From Middle Island!



Andrew D. Sent by Email



Harley C. From Ohio

This has been a public service announcement from your friends at Sonic Central. You may now return to your regularly scheduled comic reading. But don't forget: Keep on joinin'!

SONIC THE HEDGEHOG (ISSN 1070-0000) No. 180 Nov. 2008. Published monthly by Archie Comic Publications, Inc. 305 Fayette Avenue, Mahwah, NJ 10543-2318. Richard H. Oltmans: President and Co-Publisher. Michael J. Siskind: Chairman and Co-Publisher. Single copies: \$2.25 in the U.S., \$2.85 in Canada. Subscription rate: U.S.: \$27.00 for 12 issues, \$31.00 in Canada. All Canadian orders payable in U.S. dollars. (SEPA, SEPA, SEPA) (Sealing and all other characters and indicia are either registered trademarks or trademarks of SEGA CORPORATION or SEGA GAMES CORPORATION and SEGA TEAM LTD. (SEGA CORPORATION © 1991-2008. All Rights Reserved). The product is manufactured under license from Sega of America, Inc. 600 Townsend St., San Francisco, CA 94103. www.sega.com. Any similarities between characters, names, persons, or institutions in this book and any living, dead, or fictional characters, names, persons, or institutions are not intended and if they are, are purely coincidental. Periodicals postage paid at the post office at Mahwah, New York and at additional mailing offices. This magazine is U.S. second-class. POSTMASTER: send address changes to SONIC THE HEDGEHOG, c/o Archie Comic Publications, Inc. 325 Fayette Avenue, Mahwah, NJ 10543-2318. Printed in Canada.

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## NEXT ISSUE: 193



"Overside. Part I: How The Other Half Lives" Wandering what Scourge's world looks like now that he's taken over? Well, you're about to find out! Sonic and Amy get some time to "reflect" on their situation when they enter the parallel Anti-Mobius!

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THE HEDGEHOG



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# OTHERSIDE

PART ONE

## How The OTHER HALF Lives

Writer: IAN FLYNN & Pencils: TRACY YARDLEY!

Inks: IRI AMASHI & Colors: KOSHI RAY

Letters: TERESA DAVIDSON

Cover: PAT "SPAZ" SPAZIANTE

Editor/Managing Editor: MIKE PELLERITO

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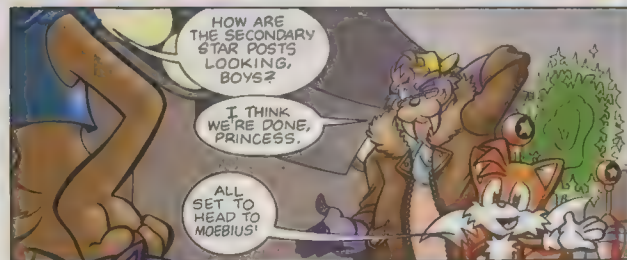
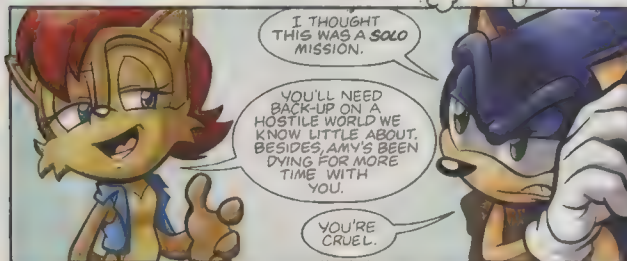
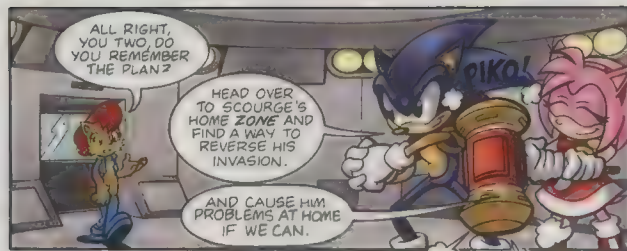
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MOEBIUS--  
NEW MOBOTROPOLIS

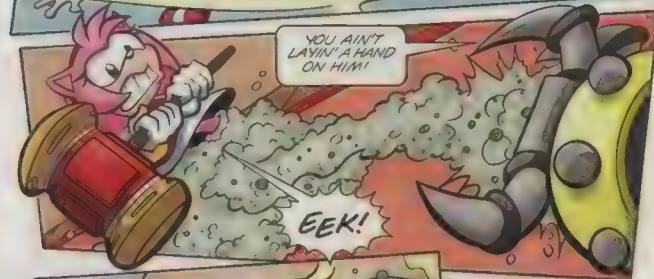
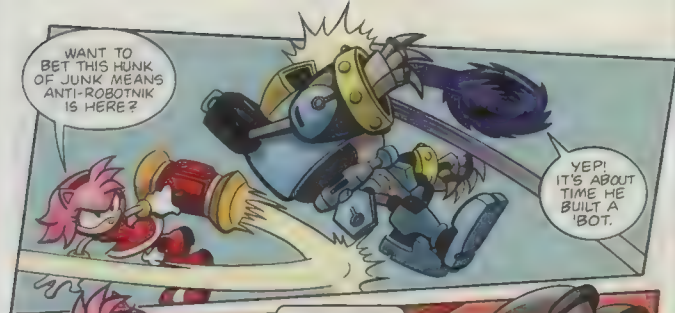
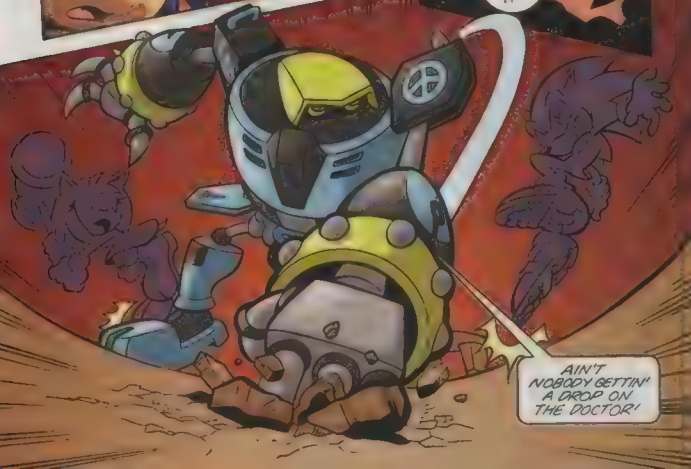
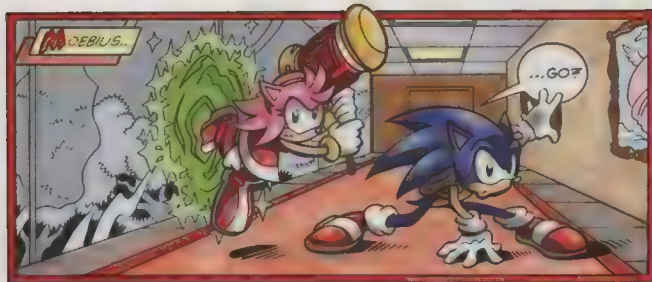
ARE YOU--um--  
READY,  
AMY?

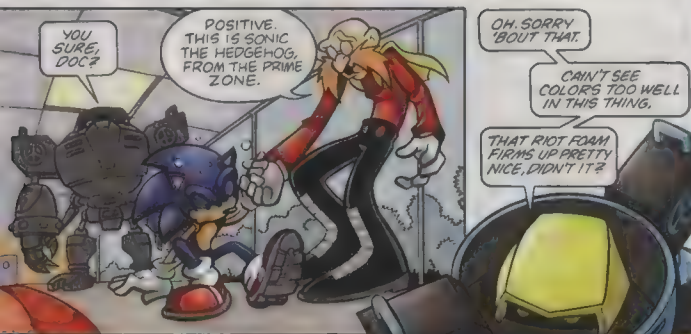
I'LL BE  
WITH YOU,  
SONIC!

I'LL BE  
READY FOR  
ANYTHING!









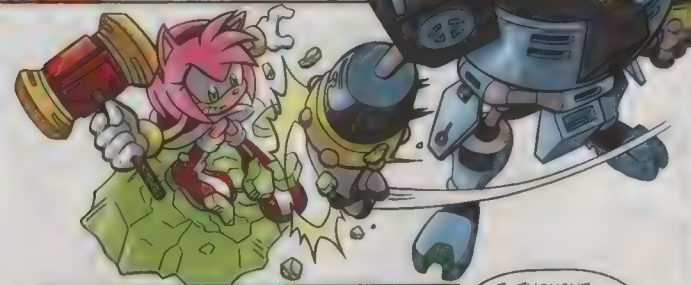
YOU SURE, DOC?

POSITIVE. THIS IS SONIC THE HEDGEHOG, FROM THE PRIME ZONE.

OH, SORRY ABOUT THAT.

CAN'T SEE COLORS TOO WELL IN THIS THING.

THAT RIOT FORM FIRMS UP PRETTY NICE, DIDN'T IT?

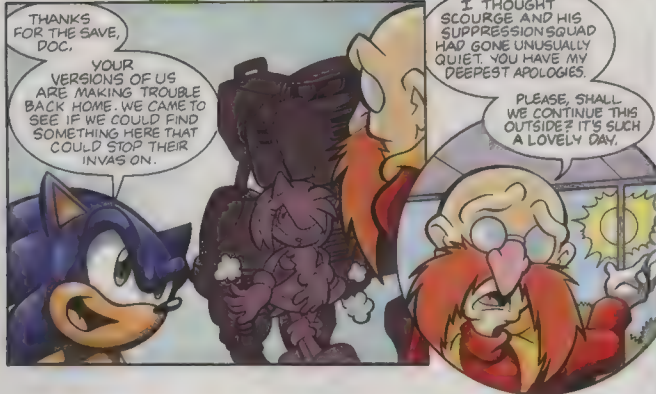


THANKS FOR THE SAVE, DOC.

YOUR VERSIONS OF US ARE MAKING TROUBLE BACK HOME. WE CAME TO SEE IF WE COULD FIND SOMETHING HERE THAT COULD STOP THEIR INVASION.

I THOUGHT SCOURGE AND HIS SUPPRESSION SQUAD HAD GONE UNUSUALLY QUIET. YOU HAVE MY DEEPEST APOLOGIES.

PLEASE, SHALL WE CONTINUE THIS OUTSIDE? IT'S SUCH A LOVELY DAY.



MOBIUS--  
NEW ROBOTROPOLIS

I HATE THIS PART. THE WAITING IS KILLING ME.

ANYTHING?

NOT YET.

THE STAR POSTS WERE ORIGINALLY SUPPOSED TO GO TO THE SPECIAL ZONE, NOT ANY OF THE MORE DISTANT ONES. WE'RE LUCKY THE PORTAL STAYED OPENED AS LONG AS IT DID.



NICOLE?

HAVE SONIC AND AMY ALREADY LEFT?

YES, WHY?

MILES OF THE SUPPRESSION SQUAD IS OUTSIDE THE CITY.

TELL BUNNIE AND ANTOINE TO MEET US THERE! TAILS--

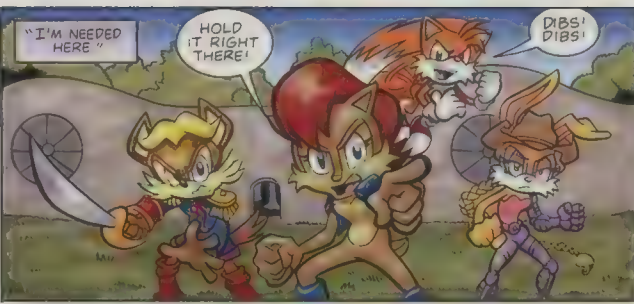
RIGHT BEHIND YOU!

ROTOR, I'M SURE SHE...

IT'S OKAY, NICOLE.

I'M NOT PART OF THE FIELD TEAM ANYMORE. PLUS, SONIC AND AMY ARE GOING TO NEED A WAY HOME.





"I'M NEEDED HERE"

HOLD IT RIGHT THERE!

DIBS! DIBS!



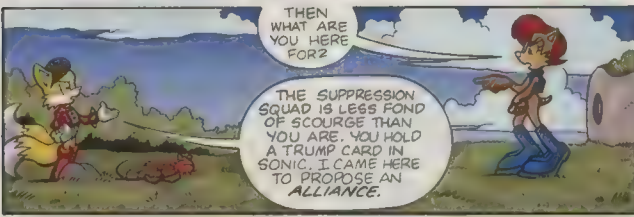
A MARVELOUS SHOW OF BRAVADO, FREEDOM FIGHTERS.

NOW HOW ABOUT YOU CALM DOWN BEFORE YOU HURT YOURSELF.

CLAP CLAP

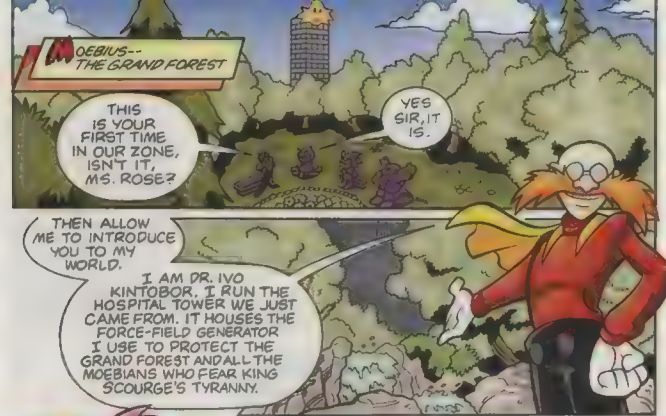


I'M HERE UNDER THE PRETENSE OF BOMBING YOUR CITY, GIVEN THAT I MADE NO EFFORT TO HIDE AND THAT I'M EXPLAINING MYSELF-- SLOWLY-- I'M OBVIOUSLY NOT INTENDING TO COMPLETE THAT MISSION.



THEN WHAT ARE YOU HERE FOR?

THE SUPPRESSION SQUAD IS LESS FOND OF SCOURGE THAN YOU ARE. YOU HOLD A TRUMP CARD IN SONIC. I CAME HERE TO PROPOSE AN ALLIANCE.



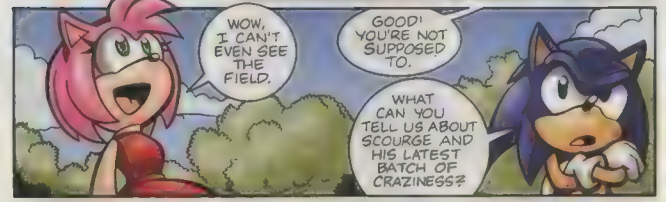
MOEBIUS-- THE GRAND FOREST

THIS IS YOUR FIRST TIME IN OUR ZONE, ISN'T IT, M.S. ROSE?

YES SIR, IT IS.

THEN ALLOW ME TO INTRODUCE YOU TO MY WORLD.

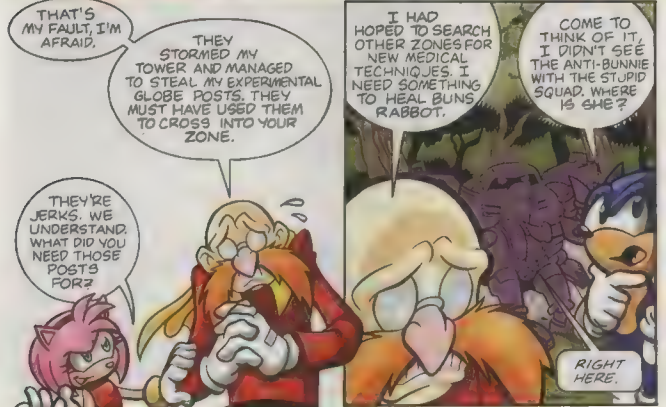
I AM DR. IVO KINTOBOR. I RUN THE HOSPITAL TOWER WE JUST CAME FROM. IT HOUSES THE FORCE-FIELD GENERATOR I USE TO PROTECT THE GRAND FOREST AND ALL THE MOEBIANS WHO FEAR KING SCOURGE'S TYRANNY.



WOW, I CAN'T EVEN SEE THE FIELD.

GOOD! YOU'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO.

WHAT CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT SCOURGE AND HIS LATEST BATCH OF CRAZINESS?



THAT'S MY FAULT, I'M AFRAID.

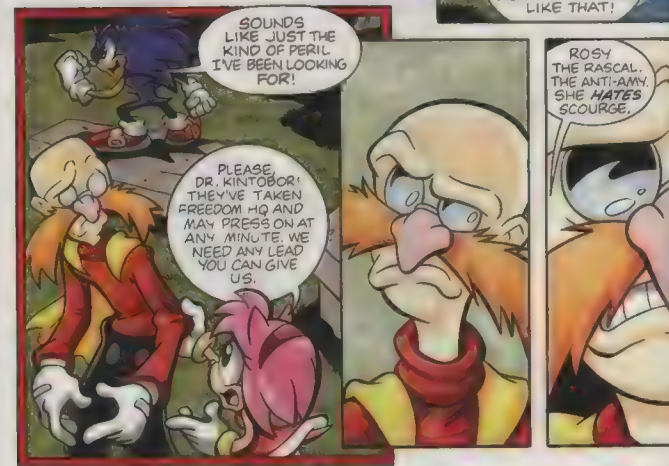
THEY STORMED MY TOWER AND MANAGED TO STEAL MY EXPERIMENTAL GLOBE POSTS. THEY MUST HAVE USED THEM TO CROSS INTO YOUR ZONE.

I HAD HOPED TO SEARCH OTHER ZONES FOR NEW MEDICAL TECHNIQUES. I NEED SOMETHING TO HEAL BUNS RABBIT.

COME TO THINK OF IT, I DIDN'T SEE THE ANTI-BUNNIE WITH THE STUPID SQUAD, WHERE IS SHE?

THEY'RE JERKS, WE UNDERSTAND WHAT DID YOU NEED THOSE POSTS FOR?

RIGHT HERE.







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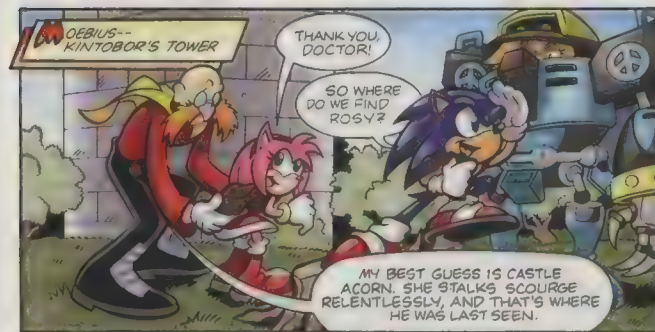
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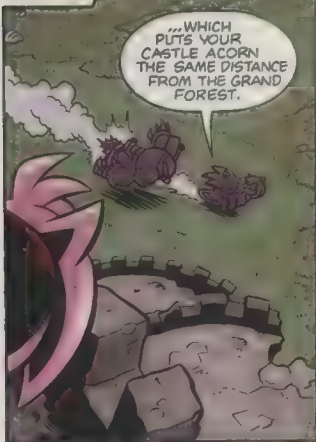
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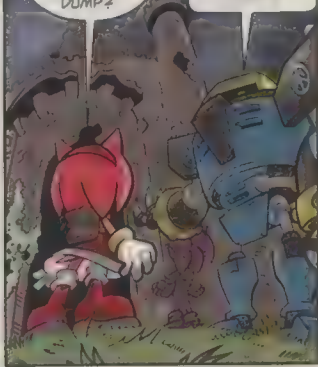
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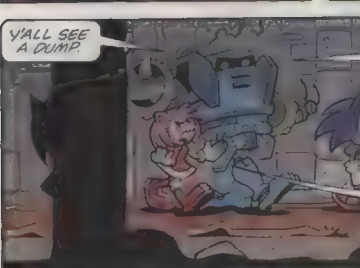
CRIPES...

HOW COULD YOU STAND TO LIVE IN SUCH A DUMP?

NEVER WAS A FAN OF YOUR CUSHY LIFESTYLE. 'SIDES, IT'S A CASTLE.

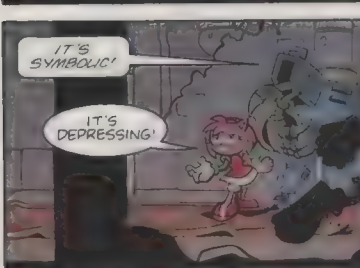


Y'ALL SEE A DUMP?



AH SEE THE FREEDOM TO DO WHATEVAH AH WANT.

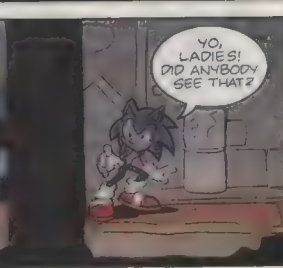
AND YOU DIDN'T WANT A DE'COR THAT WASN'T FALLING APART?



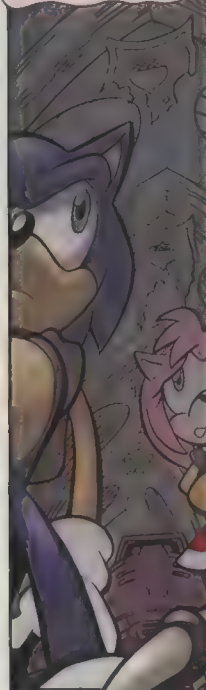
IT'S SYMBOLIC!

IT'S DEPRESSING!

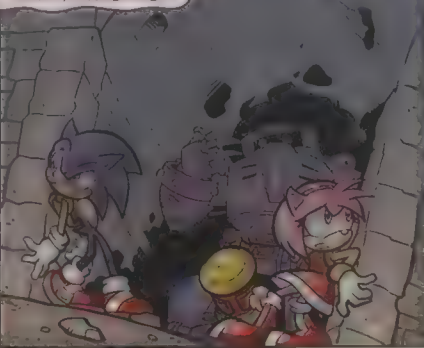
YO, LADIES! DID ANYBODY SEE THAT?



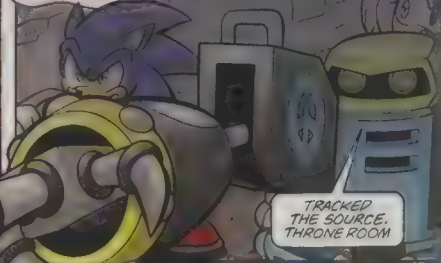
DEEP INSIDE THE ♪ CASTLE ACORN...



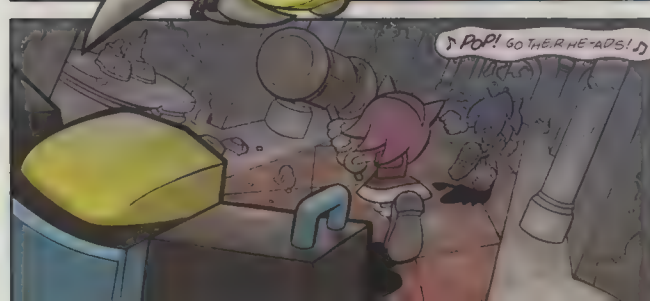
♪ INVADERS SNEAKY-CREEPING...



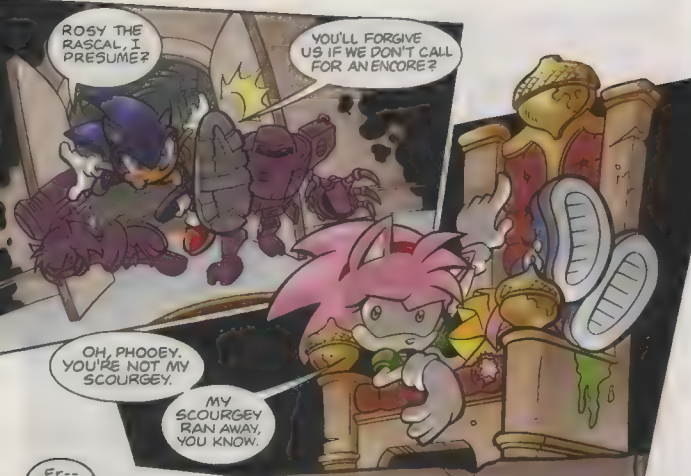
♪ THEY DON'T SEE MY Mallet ♪ COMING...



TRACKED THE SOURCE. THRONE ROOM



♪ POP! GO THER HE-ADS! ♪



ROSY THE RASCAL, I PRESUME?

YOU'LL FORGIVE US IF WE DON'T CALL FOR AN ENCORE?

OH, PHOOEY. YOU'RE NOT MY SCOURGEY.

MY SCOURGEY RAN AWAY, YOU KNOW.

Er-- RIGHT.

THAT'S WHY WE'RE HERE. WE'RE HOPING YOU'D HELP--

SCOURGEY IS ALWAYS SO MEAN. HE IGNORED ALL MY ATTACKS WHEN I WAS LITTLE...

I USED THE MAGIC IN A SPECIAL RING TO MAKE MYSELF OLDER. NOW I'M A BIG GIRL WITH A BIG HAMMER AND STILL SCOURGEY RUNS AWAY.



THAT'S KIND OF LIKE WHAT I DID, \* ONLY SHE MAKES IT SOUND CREEPY.

AND GIVEN THIS ZONE, I'M WILLING TO BET THERE WAS SOME KIND OF SIDE-EFFECT.

IN THE CLASSIC 5TH # 79

OH YES! IT BROKE MY BRAIN ALLLLL TO PIECES! SHATTER-SHATTER!

SO NOW I BREAK EVERYTHING ELSE!

EEH HEE HEE!

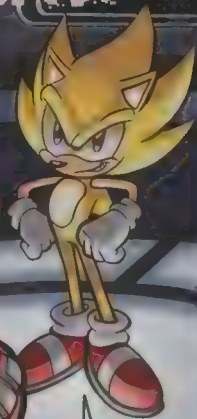
LOOK OUT, SONIC! SHE'S GOT A MALLIST AND SHE KNOWS HOW TO USE IT!  
CAN SONIC TURN THE TABLES ON ROSY? CAN HE DO IT IN TIME TO JOIN MILES' PLAN?  
WHAT IS MILES' PLAN?  
ALL THIS AND MORE NEXT ISSUE!



IN ANOTHER TIME...  
IN ANOTHER PLACE...

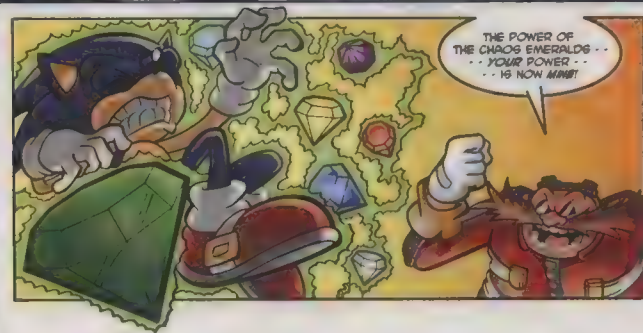
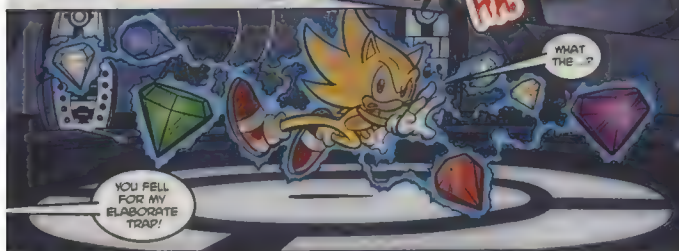
CURSE YOU, HEDGEHOG! YOU'VE MADE MINCEMEAT OF MY SPACE ARMADA!

# SONIC UNLEASHED!



CALL IT A HOBBY. YOU'RE DONE, DOC. CALL IT QUIT'S WHILE YOU'RE BEHIND.

WRITER: IAN FLYNN - PENCILS: TRACY YARDLEY! - INKS: JIM AMASH  
COLORS: JOSH RAY - LETTERS: STINGRAY GRAFIK WURKS  
EDITOR/MANAGING EDITOR: MIKE PELLERITO - EDITOR-IN-CHIEF: VICTOR GORELICK  
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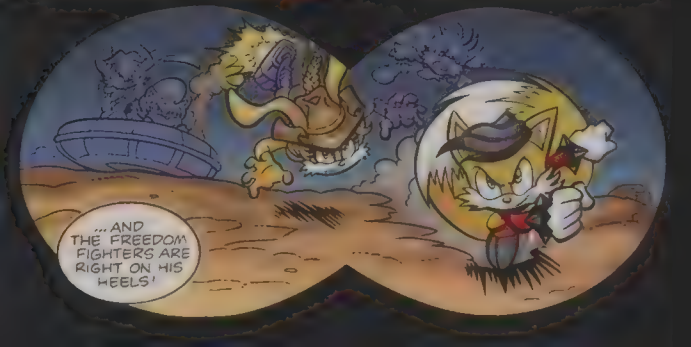
WHAT'S TAKING MILES SO STINKING LONG? "DROP BOMBS ON SONIC'S STUPID CITY!" SHOULDN'T BE THAT DIFFICULT!



I SEE HIM!

ABOUT TIME! IS HE WALKING BACK?

NO, HE'S RUNNING...



...AND THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS ARE RIGHT ON HIS HEELS!

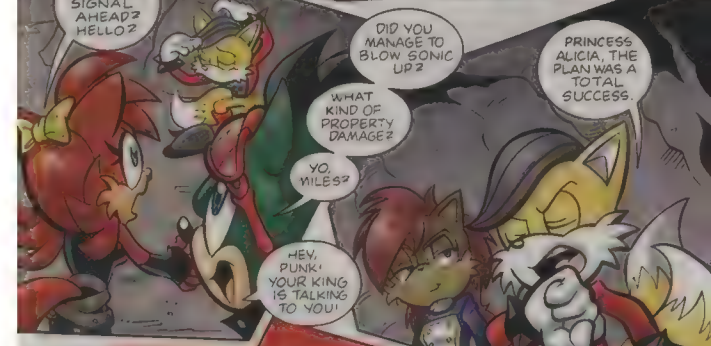


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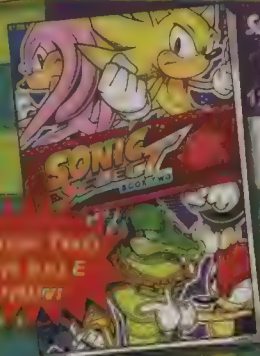
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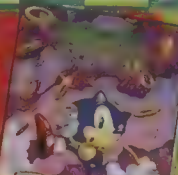
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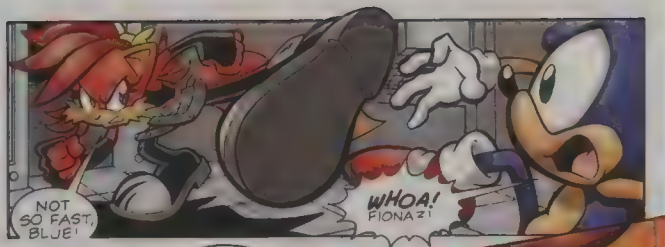
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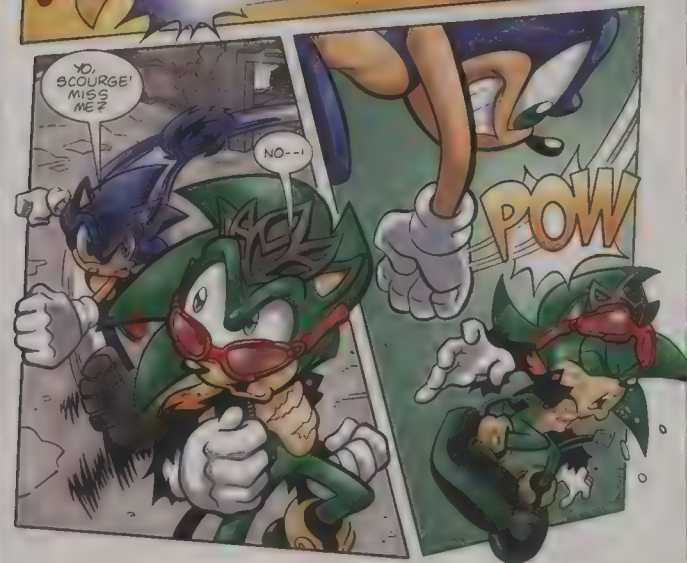
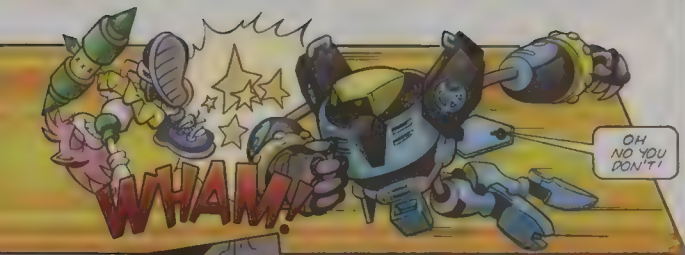
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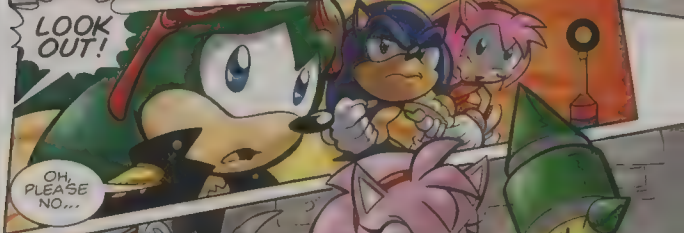
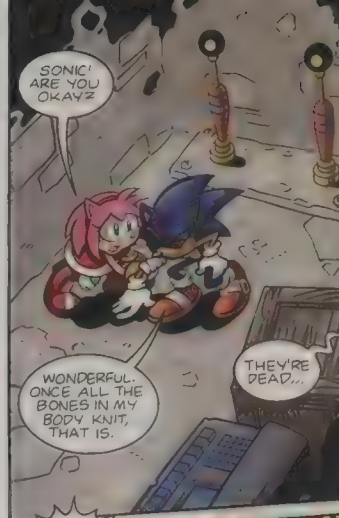
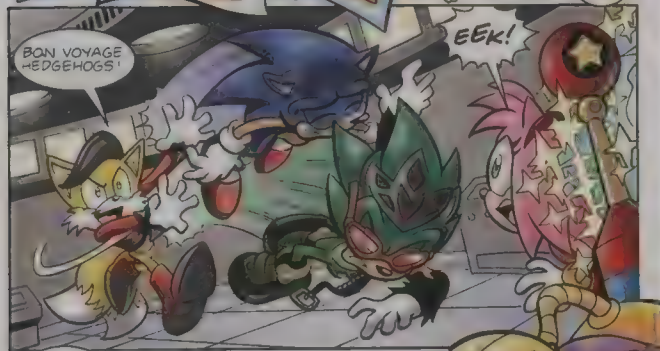
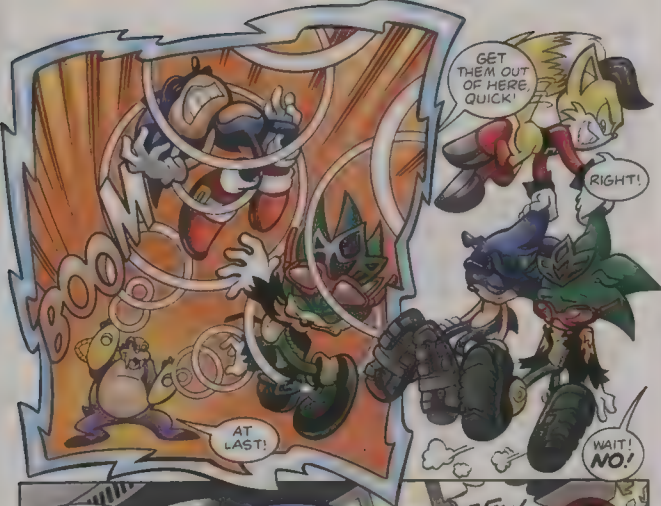
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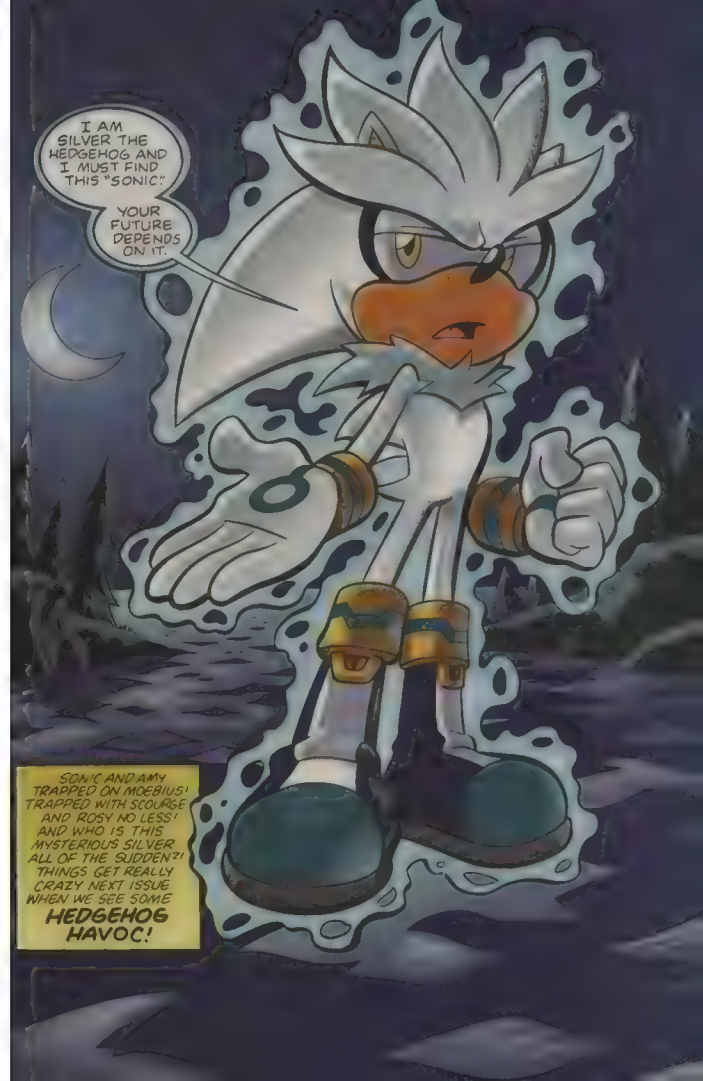
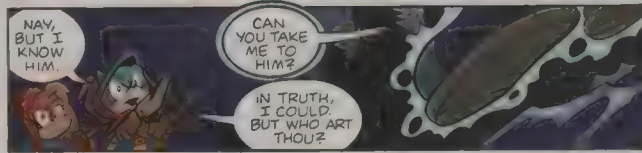


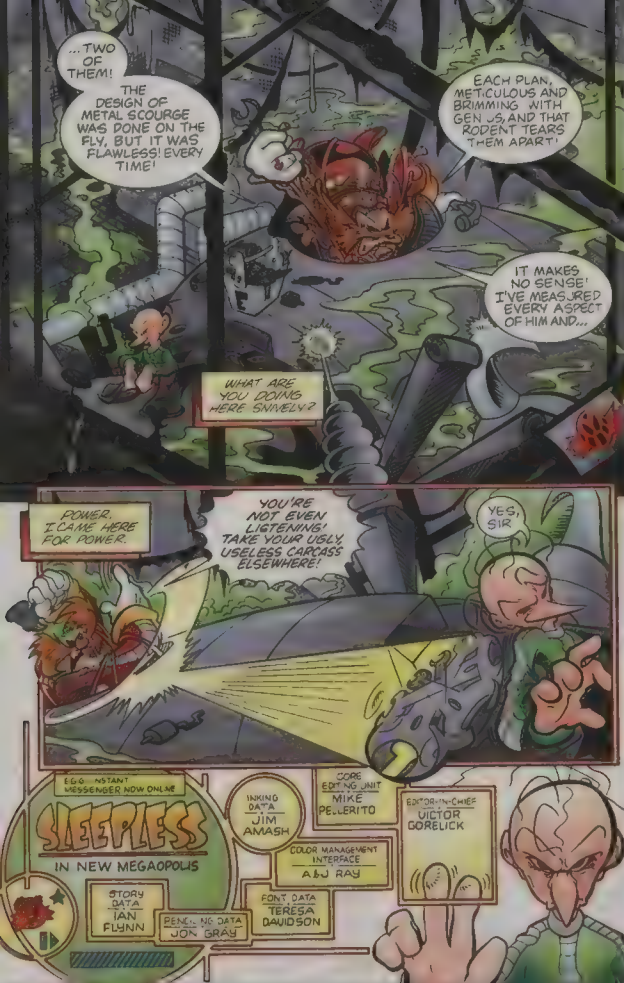














A SMALL ARMY OF CYBORGS THAT HATES MY GUTS, MY BEAUTIFUL CITY BLASTED TO RUINS

AND NOW WE'RE BASED IN THIS DESOLUBLE "EGGPORE!"

I CAN'T VERY WELL TAKE THE SEAT OF THE EMPIRE FOR MYSELF WHEN IT'S FALLING APART AROUND ME.

EXCEPT UNCLE ROBOTNIK HAS BEEN WATCHING ME EXTRA-CLOSE

WHEN HE ISN'T BARBLING NONSENSE, THAT IS.

I CAN'T GO BACK TO THE MOBANS. ANY CHANCE OF FORGIVENESS WENT OUT THE WINDOW WHEN I TOOK UP THEIR LITTLE CLUBHOUSE X

X-5TH #175

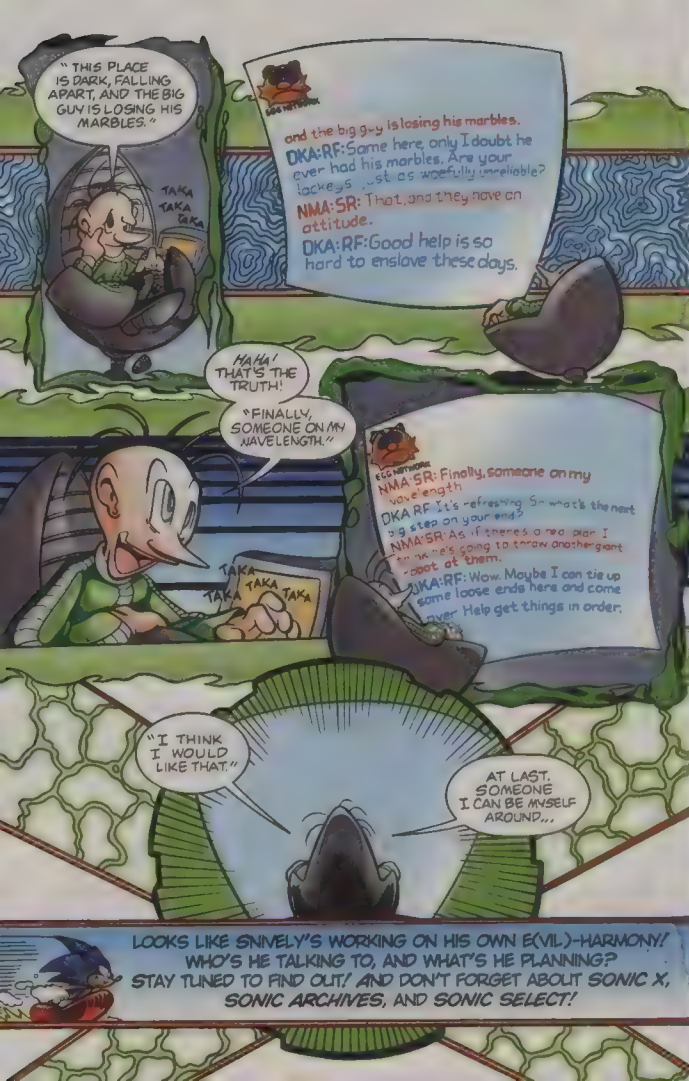
AND I JUST CAN'T START OVER IN ANOTHER PART OF THE EMPIRE.

AND STILL I TRY, IN THE VAIN HOPE I CAN ACTUALLY MAKE SOME KIND OF PROGRESS.

UNCLE HAS LET HIS SUB-BOSSSES GO UNCHECKED I CAN'T EVEN REACH MOST OF THEM.

OH, TO HECK WITH IT

"TERRIBLE. LOCAL RESISTANCE IS TAKING US APART, PIECE BY PIECE."



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mass!

### Surprise

Could you guys  
PLEEEEEASE publish  
this? I'll be known as  
"LORD OF THE SONIC"  
if you do!

Er: To whom? Be careful! You—that might be copyright infringement!"

PS Sonic the Hedgehog  
in Dutch is Sonisch  
Hedgehog and in  
Swedish it is Ljudigelkot-  
ten. Not that I'm from any  
of those places, but IT  
STILL SOUNDS COOL!  
- YUE S  
MASSACHUSETTS

We'll remember that on our next trip to Sweden. Though I don't think we'll be able to pronounce it.

**Dear Masters of the Sonic Universe, AKA Sonic-Grams:** Sorry, but I think Sonic should dump Sally and go for Amy instead

I hear Rosy the Rascal is in the market for a relationship.

Is Scourge based on Ashura, the glitch in Sonic 2?

Scourge **WOULD** be based off a glitch, wouldn't he? That's so like him.

How about de-roboticizing Sonic's father part-way so he can be like Bunnie Rabbot?

- TRAVIS C  
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Global warming must be affecting Oklahoma too—you even want "Hybrid" comic book characters now?<sup>27</sup>

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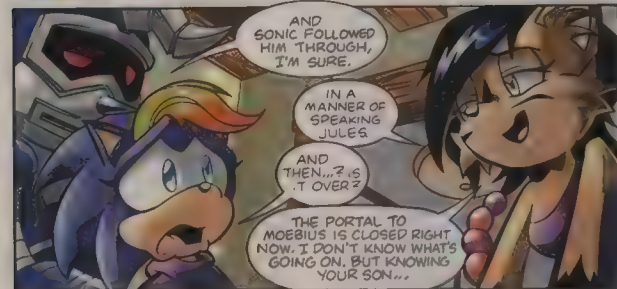
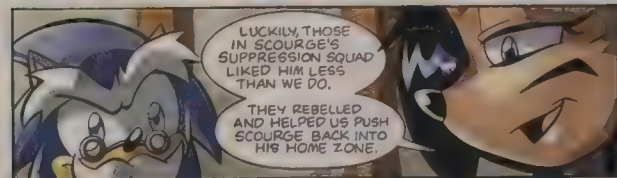
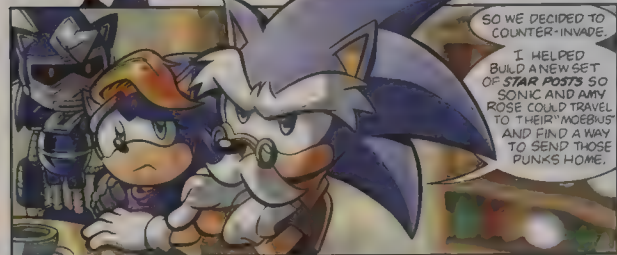
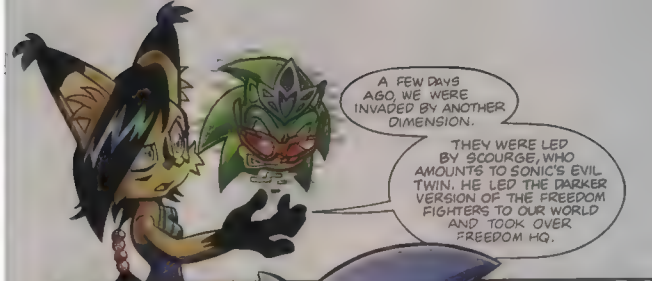
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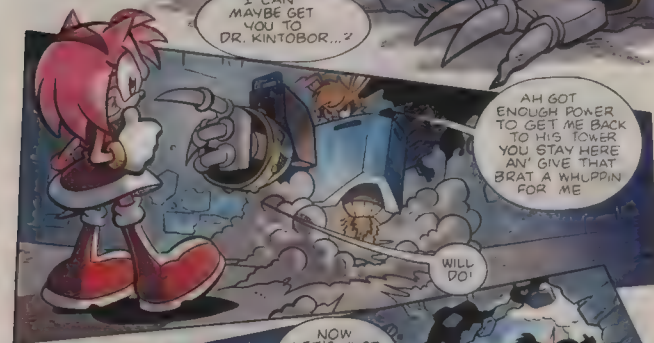
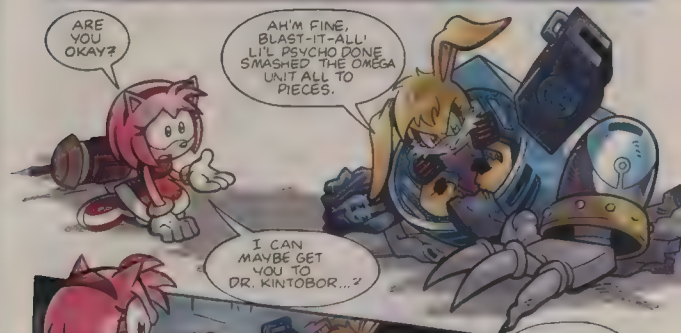
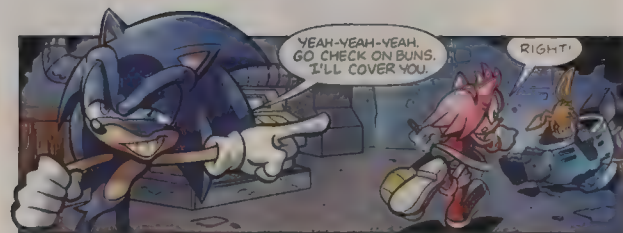
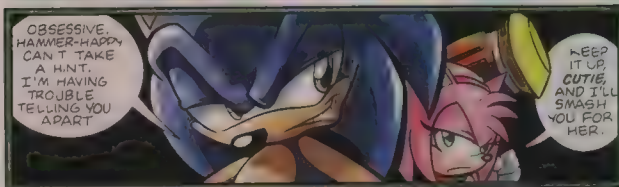
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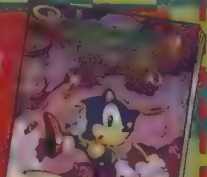
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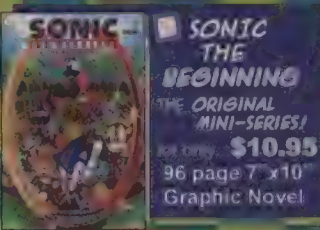
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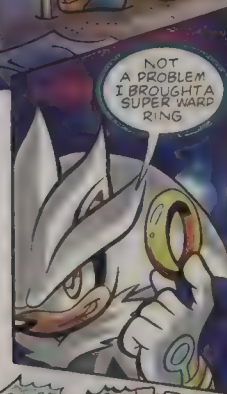
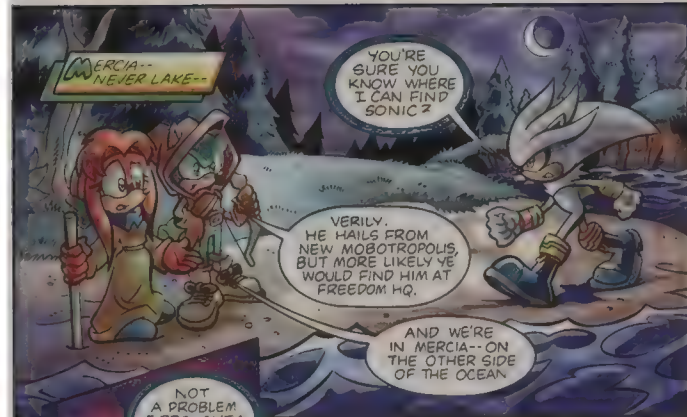
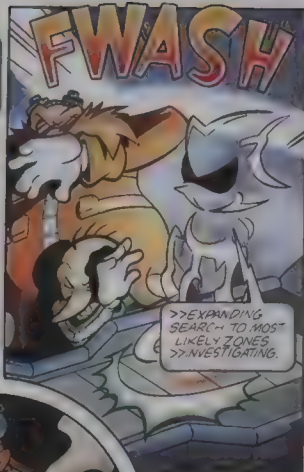
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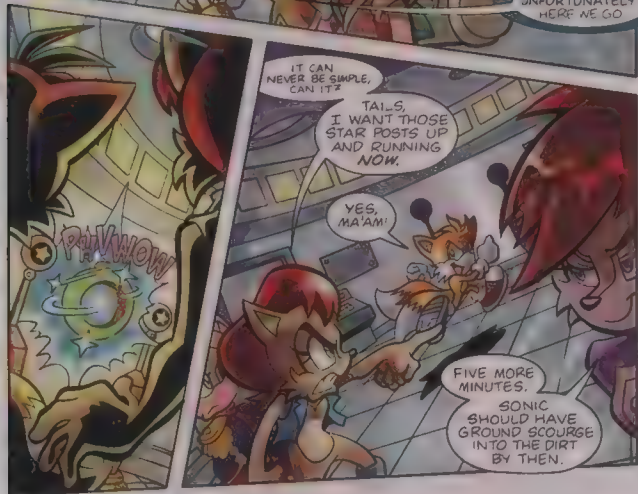
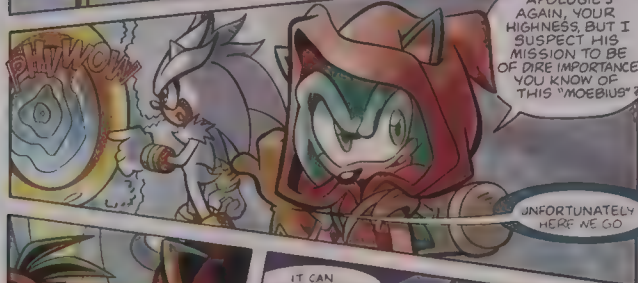
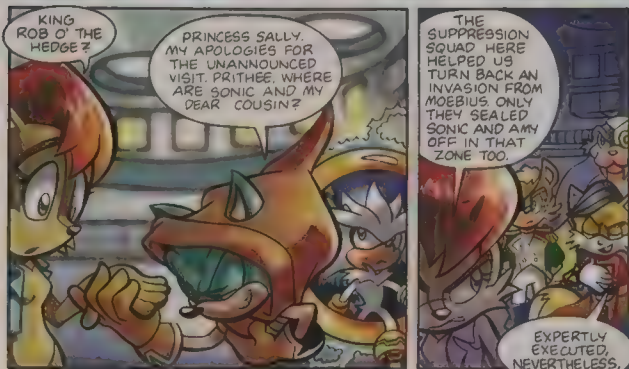
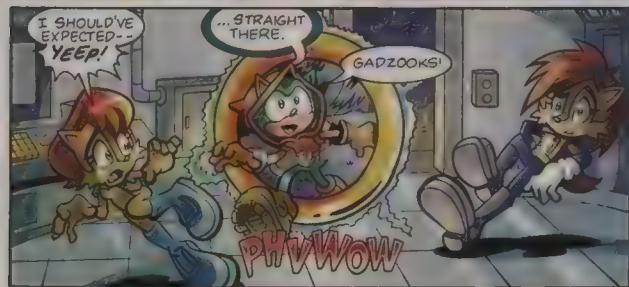
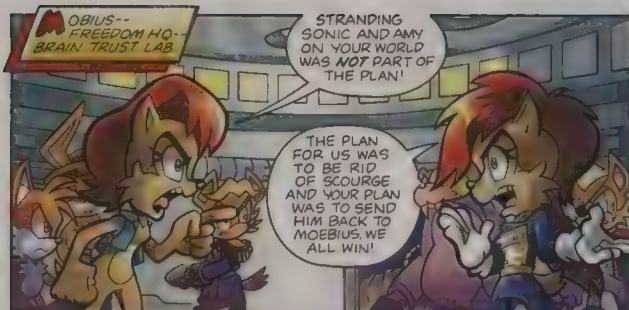
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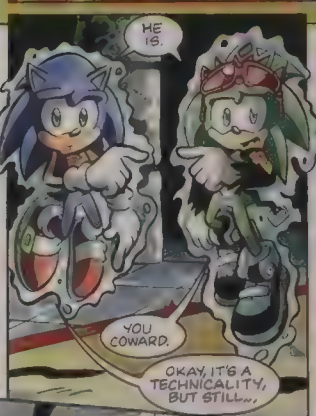
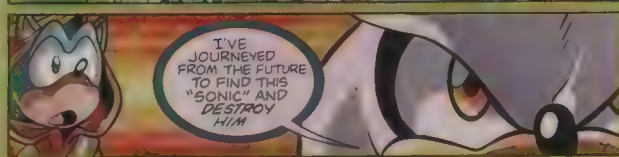
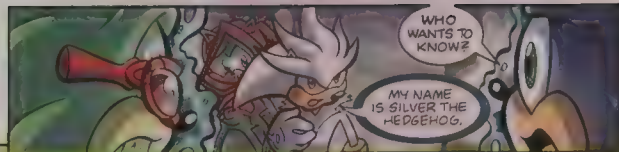


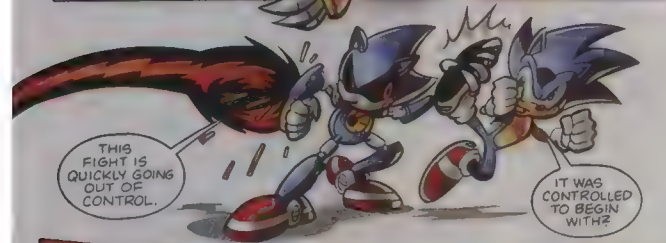
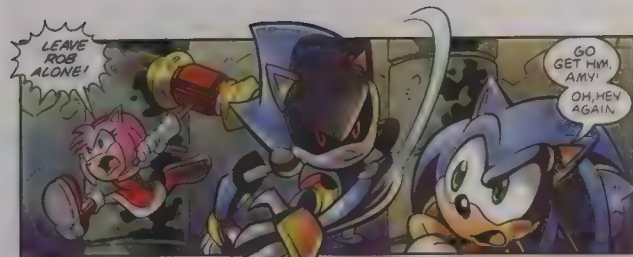
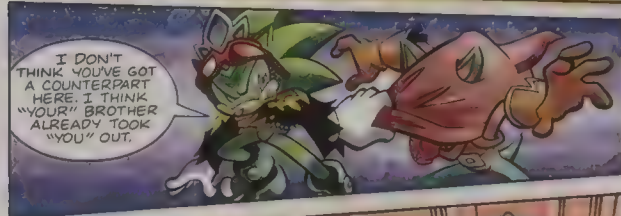


















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When is Locke coming back?

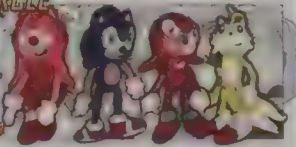
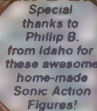
Sincerely,  
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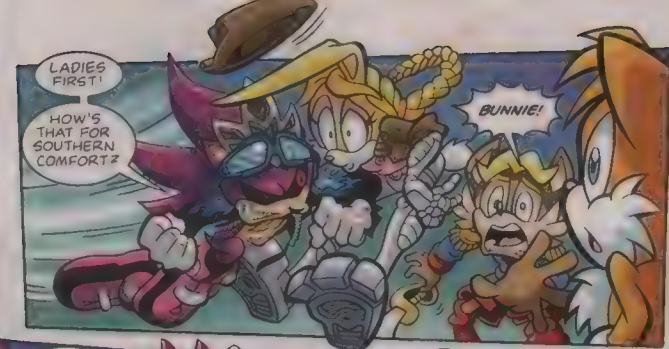
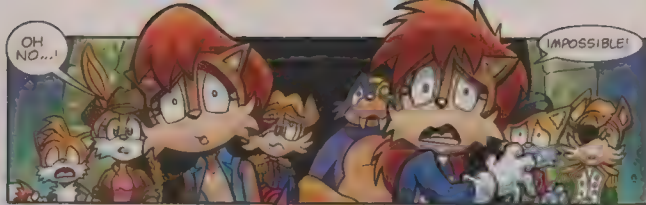
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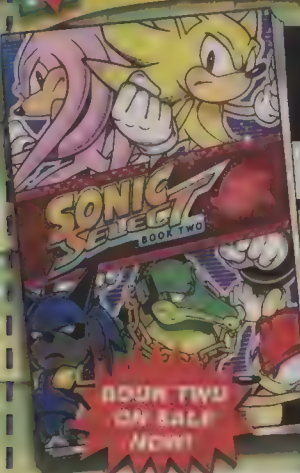








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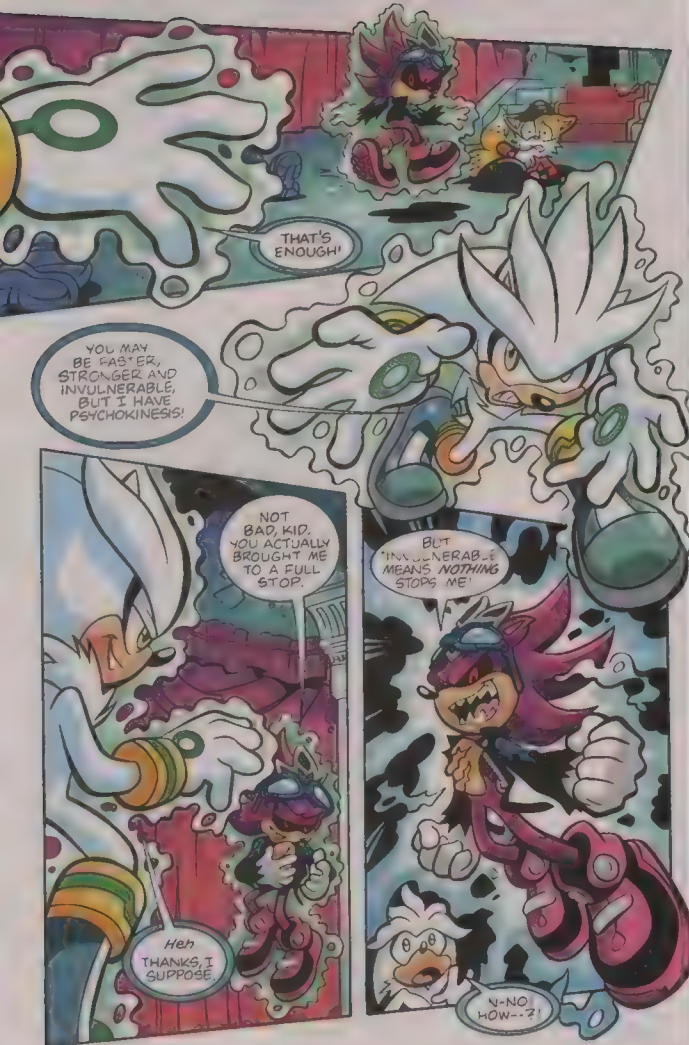
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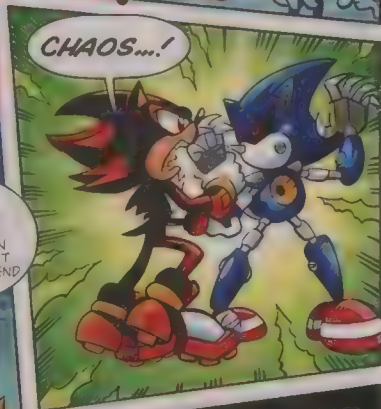
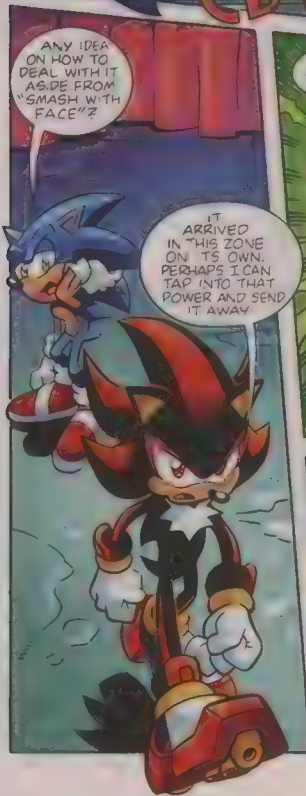
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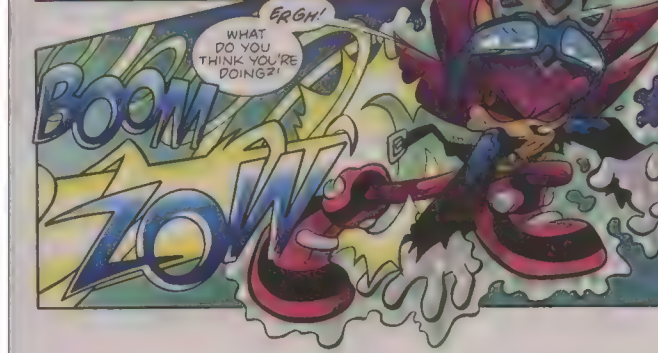
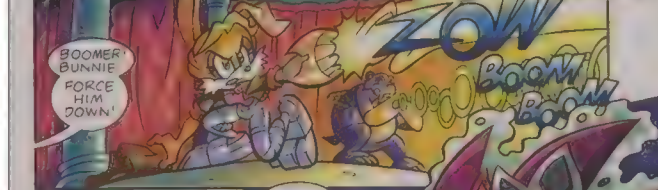
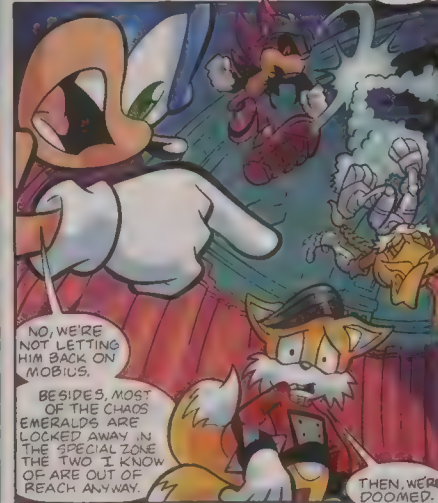
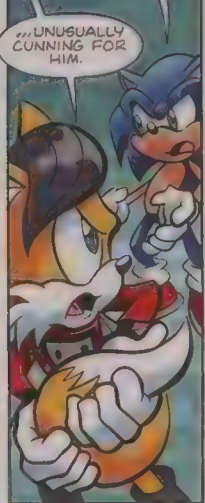
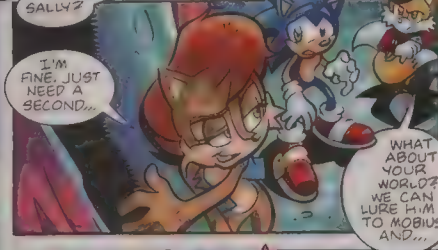
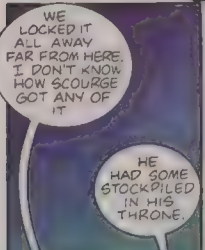
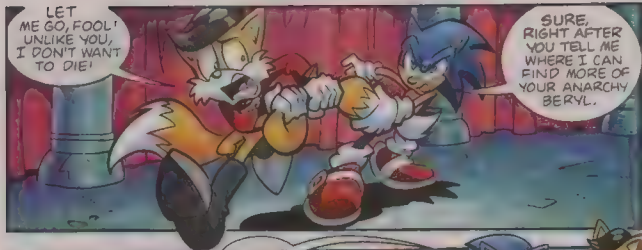
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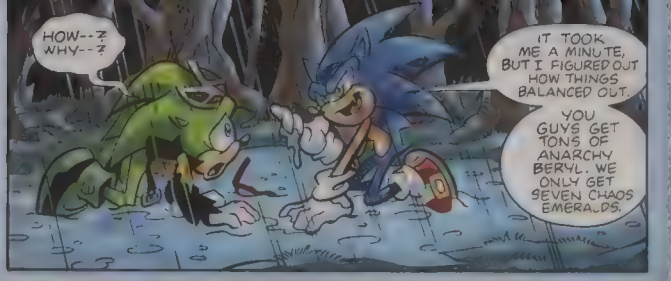












HOW--? WHY--?

IT TOOK ME A MINUTE, BUT I FIGURED OUT HOW THINGS BALANCED OUT.

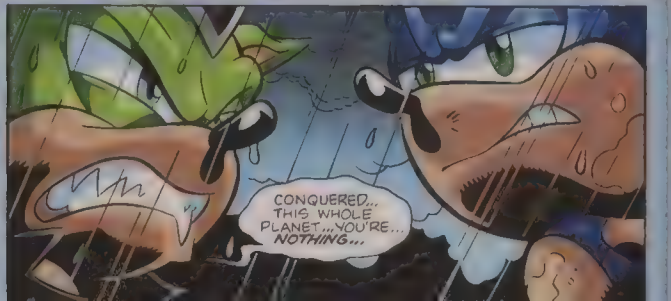
YOU GUYS GET TONS OF ANARCHY BERYL. WE ONLY GET SEVEN CHAOS EMERALDS.



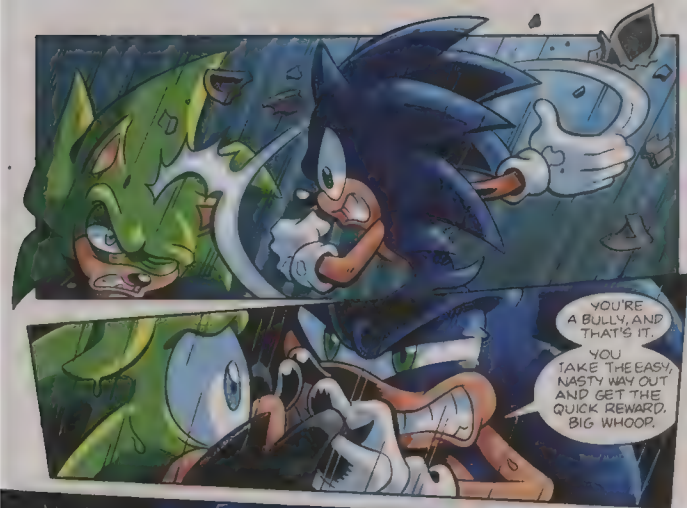
THE "SUPER" FORMS ARE THE SAME. YOURS MAY EVEN LAST A LITTLE LONGER THAN MINE WOULD, BUT WHEN I POWER DOWN, IT GIVES ME A SMALL BOOST...

...WHEN YOU DO, IT BURNS YOU OUT.

CHEATED...  
WE...  
I'M...  
KING...



CONQUERED... THIS WHOLE PLANET... YOU'RE... NOTHING...



YOU'RE A BULLY, AND THAT'S IT.

YOU TAKE THE EASY, NASTY WAY OUT AND GET THE QUICK REWARD. BIG WHOOP.

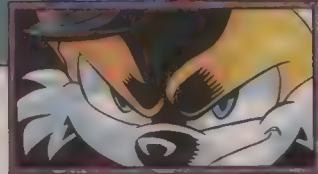
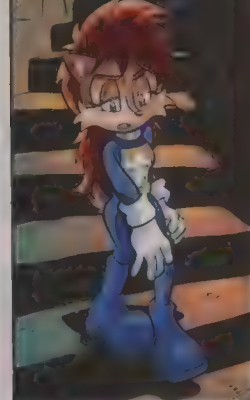
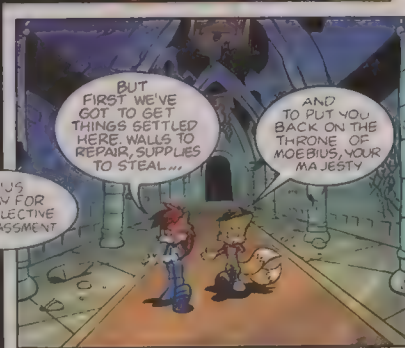
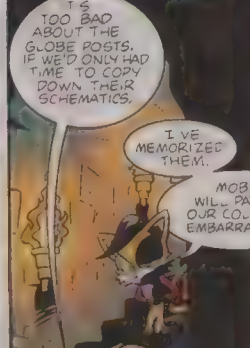
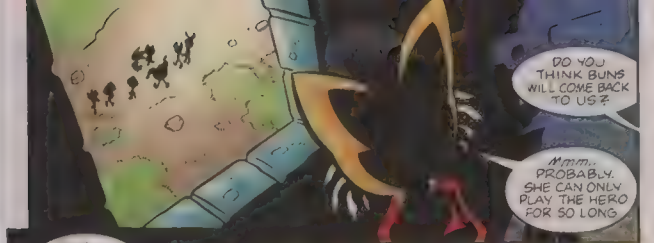
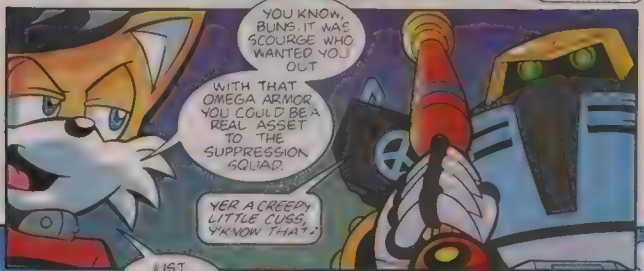
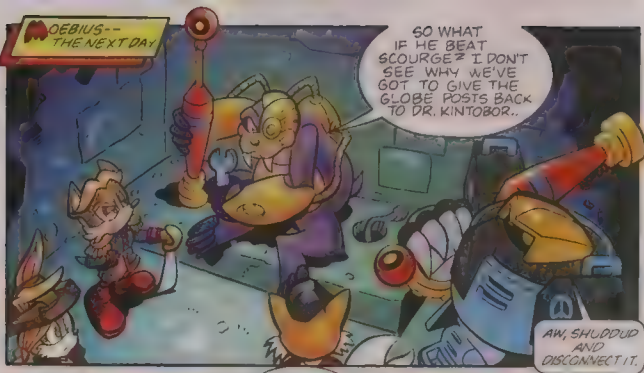


I DO THINGS THE RIGHT WAY. I HELP OTHERS TO MAKE SOMETHING BIGGER AND BETTER THAN JUST MEAN.

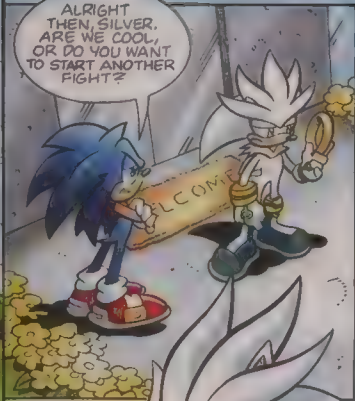
THE GOOD GUYS ALWAYS WIN IN THE LONG RUN.

AND THERE ISN'T ANYBODY WHO CAN RUN LONGER OR BETTER THAN I CAN

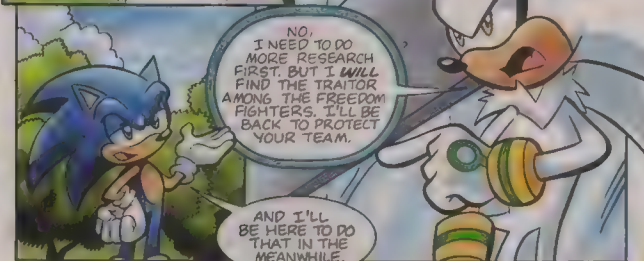




**AOEBIUS--  
OR KINTOBOR'S TOWER**

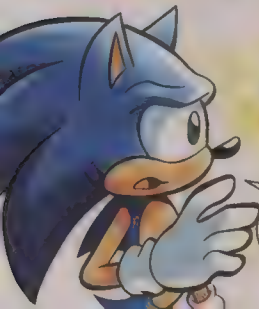


ALRIGHT THEN, SILVER, ARE WE COOL, OR DO YOU WANT TO START ANOTHER FIGHT?



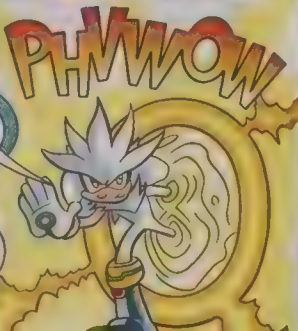
NO, I NEED TO DO MORE RESEARCH FIRST, BUT I *WILL* FIND THE TRAITOR AMONG THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS. I'LL BE BACK TO PROTECT YOUR TEAM.

AND I'LL BE HERE TO DO THAT IN THE MEANWHILE.



FAREWELL, SONIC. WE *WILL* MEET AGAIN.

HAVE FUN WITH YOUR DYSTOPIAN FUTURE OR WHATEVER.



I CAN'T THANK YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS ENOUGH, SONIC.

NO SWEAT, DOC. DO YOU STILL HAVE HIM?

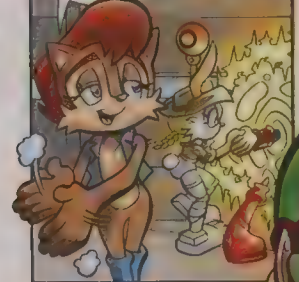
YES, AND HE'S STILL BOUND. HE HASN'T STIRRED SINCE YOU BROUGHT HIM TO ME LAST NIGHT.

WHEE!

THAT WRAPS IT UP. ROB WAS SENT HOME, AND WE'RE THE LAST TWO TO GO BACK TO FREEDOM HQ.

NOT QUITE, SAL...

YOU'RE THE LAST ONE TO GO BACK. I'M HAULING SCOURGE TO JAIL IN THE PARALLEL ZONE, AND THEN I'M GETTING SOME ANSWERS.



WHAT ANSWERS DOES SONIC SEEK?  
CAN HE GET SCOURGE SAFELY BEHIND BARS?  
AND WHAT TRIALS ARE WAITING FOR SALLY BACK HOME?  
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MAN-O-MAN...

IT'S BEEN  
 A LONG TIME  
 SINCE I RAN THESE  
 ROADS, BUT I KNOW  
 THEY WEREN'T THIS  
 BAD THE LAST TIME  
 I WAS HERE.

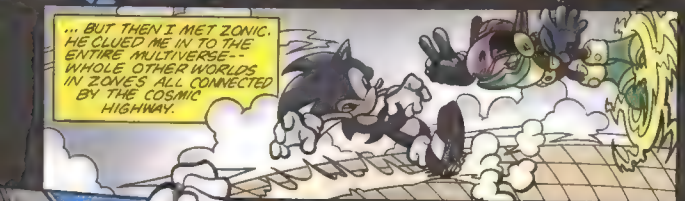
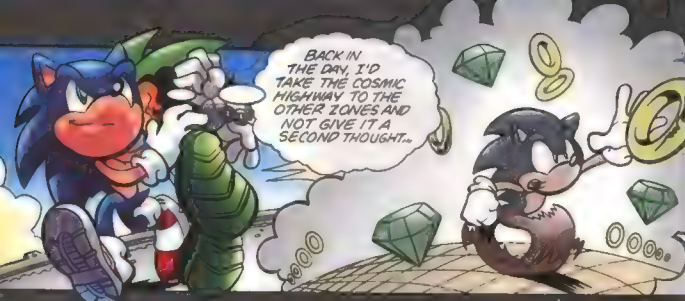
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CASTLE ACORN

I WOULD  
LIKE AN EXPLANATION  
AS TO WHY IT FEELS  
LIKE I'M UNDER  
ARREST.

YOU'RE  
NOT UNDER  
ARREST! WE...WE'VE  
NOT PRESSED  
CHARGES.

YET.

THAT IS THE PURPOSE  
OF THIS HEARING.

WHAT--?

I JUST  
GOT BACK  
FROM MOEBIUS.  
HOW...

PRECISELY,  
PRINCESS. THE  
CHARGES UNDER  
DISCUSSION ARE  
SUBVERTING THE  
COUNCIL'S AUTHORITY  
AND GOING  
ROGUE.

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\* COUNT THE VOTES IN 5TH \*19!



\*\* NOT THAT HE MINDS-- SEE 5TH \*192 TO SEE WHY!



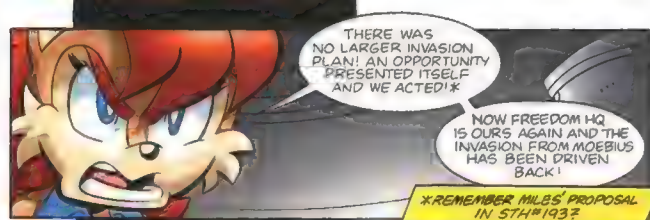
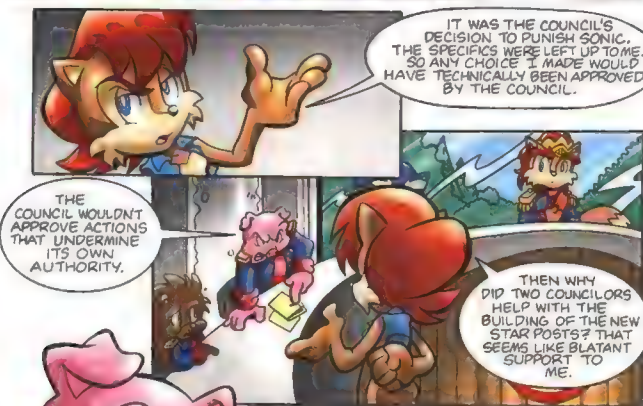


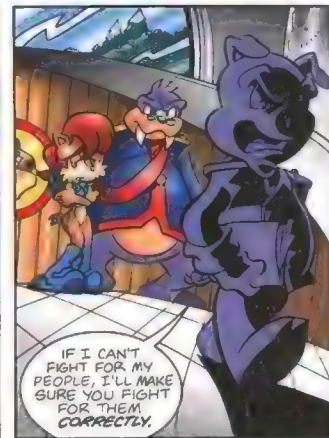
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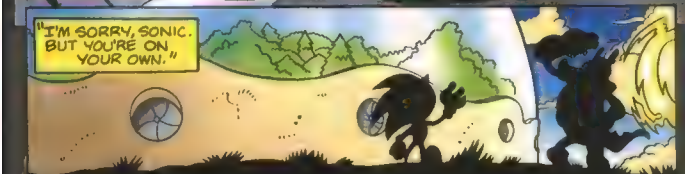
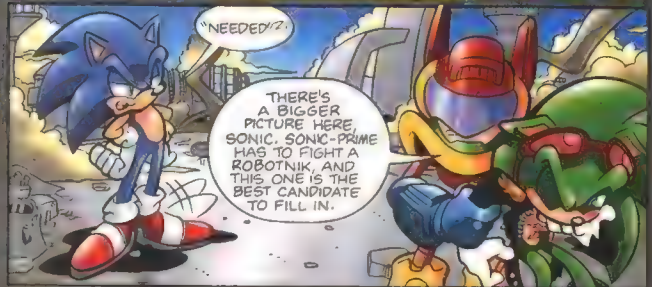
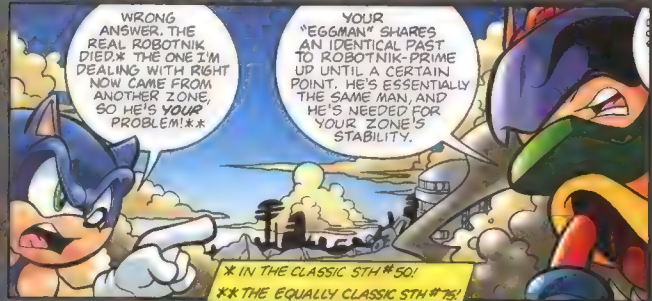
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NEW MOBOTROPOLIS--  
HEDGEHOG RESIDENCE

YO!  
I'M HOME!

THERE'S  
MY BEAUTIFUL  
BOY!  
I DON'T  
KNOW IF I'LL  
EVER GET USED TO  
YOU SAVING THE  
WORLD EVERY  
DAY.

NOT THAT  
WE WANT YOU  
TO STOP.

IT'S STILL  
KIND OF WEIRD  
COMING HOME  
TO YOU GUYS.  
NOT LIKE  
I MIND.

THAT'S  
WHAT HAPPENS  
WHEN A TYRANNICAL  
MADMAN CONQUERS  
THE WORLD AND  
RUINS EVERYONE'S  
LIVES.

BUT WE'RE  
TOGETHER NOW,  
AND THAT'S ALL  
THAT MATTERS.

SO SCOURGE  
IS SAFELY LOCKED  
AWAY?

YEP.

DO YOU  
GET A MINUTE  
TO REST  
NOW?

JUST  
ONE. THEN  
I'M HOPING  
TO FINISH ONE  
MORE FIGHT...

NEW MEGAOPOLIS--  
EGGDOME

COLIN!  
GET DOWN  
TO THE LAB!  
**NOW!**

TCH.  
I'M BEING  
BELLOWED AT.  
I HAVE TO  
GO.

I'LL CALL  
YOU TOMORROW?

I'D  
HOPE SO!  
GOOD NIGHT,  
MY LITTLE  
SNIVY-KINS.

GOOD  
NIGHT, MY DEAR  
REGINA!

OF ALL  
THE TIMES FOR  
HIM TO CALL ME!  
WHY CAN'T HE DO  
WHATEVER IT IS  
HIMSELF?

WAIT...  
HE CALLED ME  
"COLIN."

HE'S  
NEVER CALLED  
ME BY MY BIRTH  
NAME...



MAYBE HE REALLY IS GETTING WORSE? THE MAD BABBLING WAS FAR FOR THE COURSE, BUT HIS SLOPPINESS AROUND THE EGGDOME, AND NOW CALLING ME BY THE WRONG NAME...

IF HE'S TRULY FALLING APART, THOUGH, THEN REGINA'S PLANS COULD BE ACCELERATED...

I'M HERE, DEAR UNCLE. WHAT IS IT YOU NEEDED ME TO...?

GET BEHIND THE BLAST SHIELD AND WATCH THE MONITORS!

OF COURSE, SIR! WHAT ARE WE TESTING TODAY?

THE EGG MINNOW, PERHAPS?

OR MAYBE AN EGG RABBIT TO HOP AND STOMP ON SONIC? Hmmm?

**BWOOSH**

AHHIEEE!!!

TEST COMPLETE! WHAT ARE THE READOUTS?!

W-W-WELL AB-B-BOVE YOUR E-E-EXPECTATIONS, S-S-SIR.

EXCELLENT!

THE  
EGG PHOENIX  
IS READY FOR  
LAUNCH!

With one crisis over,  
another looms on the horizon!

The beginning of the end  
starts next month as Sonic tries  
to bring the "Phoenix Down!"

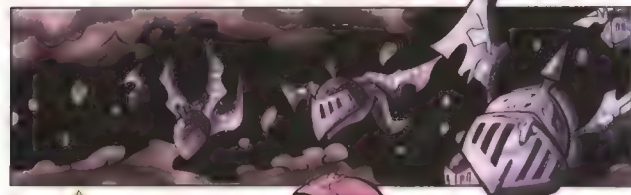
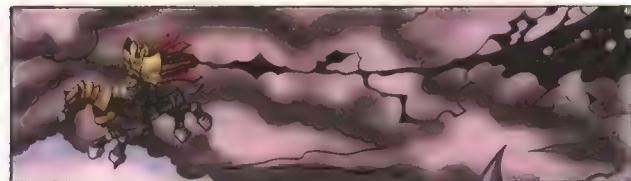
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SONIC  
UNIVERSE  
Black Knight

# KNIGHT TIME

Another time...  
another place...

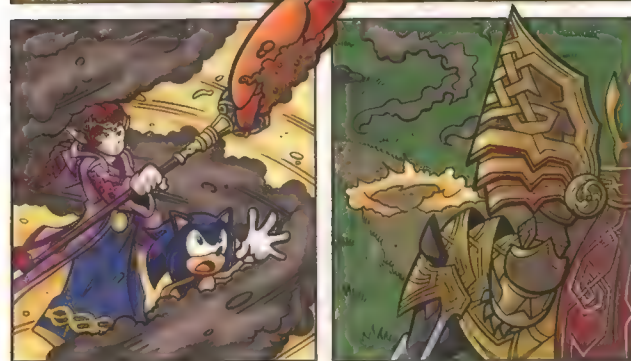
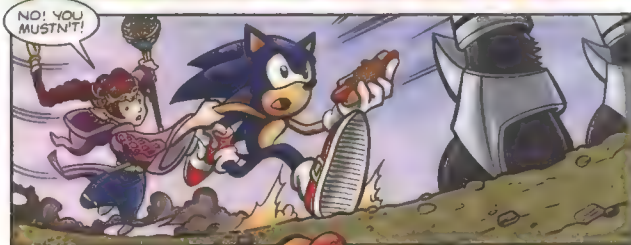
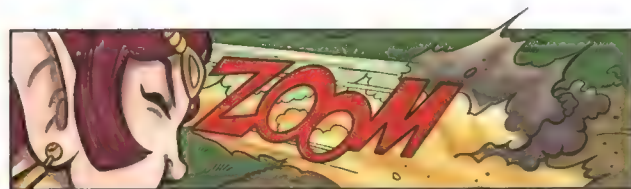
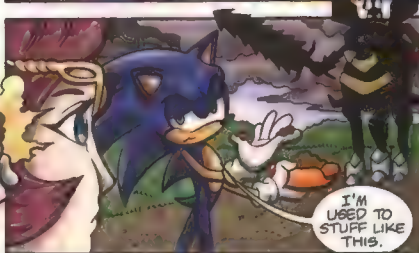
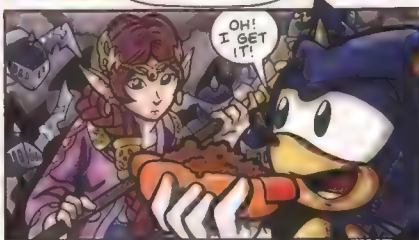
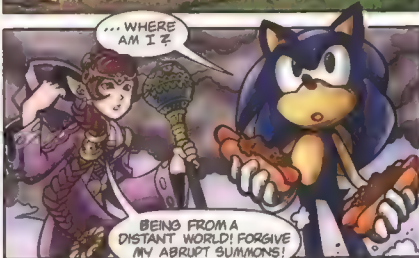
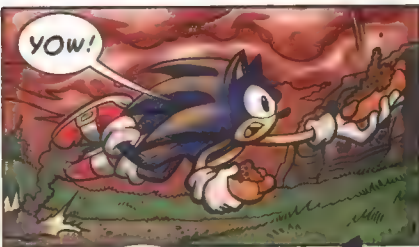


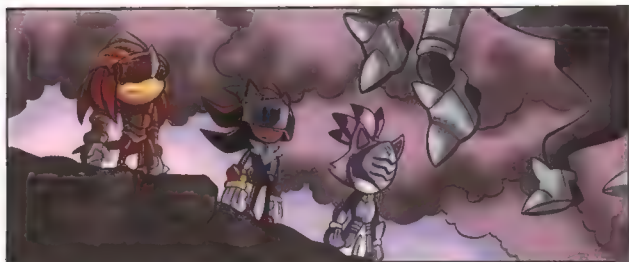
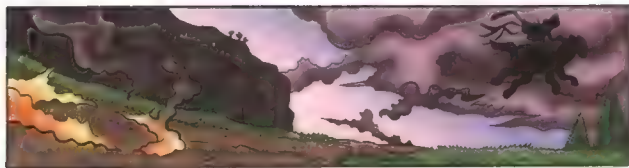
IPH A'SARIS  
Y EES SARAK  
IPH A'SARIS  
Y EES SARAK

O BRAVE KNIGHT,  
SWIFT AS THE WIND,  
HEED MY CALL!

Writer: Ian Flynn Pencils: Tracy Yardley Inks: Jim Amash  
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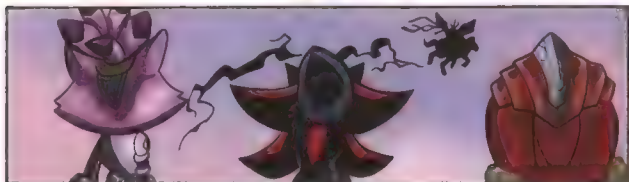




I SHALL  
GIVE CHASE.  
SPREAD OUT  
AND GO AFTER  
THEM



SLAY  
THEM ON  
SIGHT



LET'S  
GO

MUST  
WE? SHE  
IS THE ROYAL  
WIZARD,  
AFTER  
ALL.



THE KING'S  
ORDERS ARE  
ABSOLUTE.

YES,  
BUT...

WITHOUT  
LOYALTY TO  
THE KING,  
WE ARE  
NOTHING.



STILL...  
THE KING HAS  
CHANGED  
AND THIS  
KINGDOM...



An evil Black Knight! A mysterious wizard!  
Familiar faces wearing armor—and Sonic's caught in  
the middle of it all!  
Find out what happens next in  
**SONIC** and the  
**Black Knight**  
for your Nintendo Wii!





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# SPAWN





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PART 1



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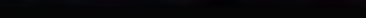
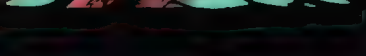
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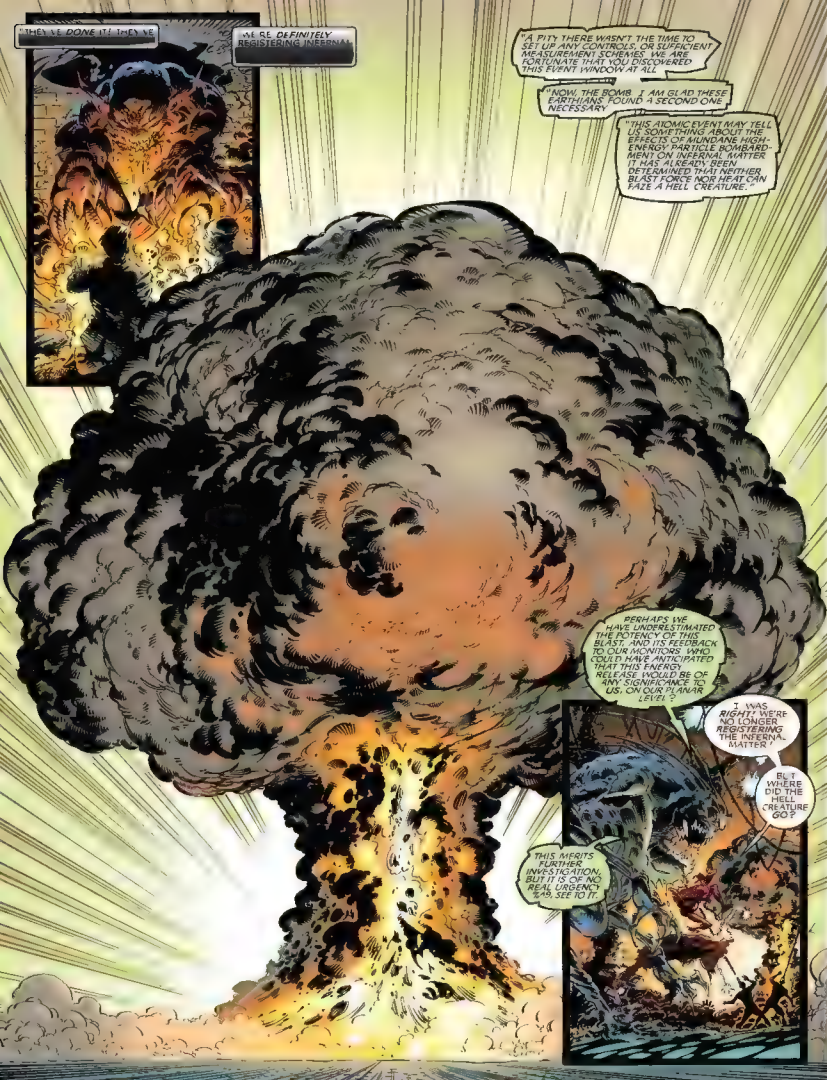
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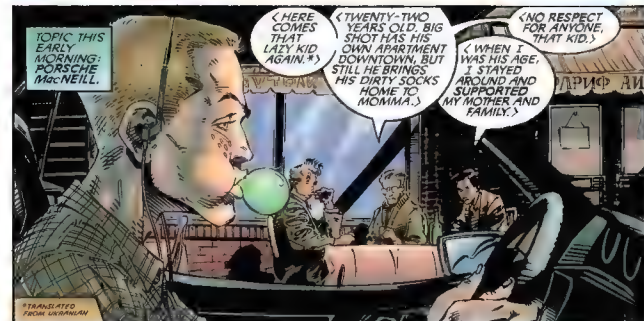
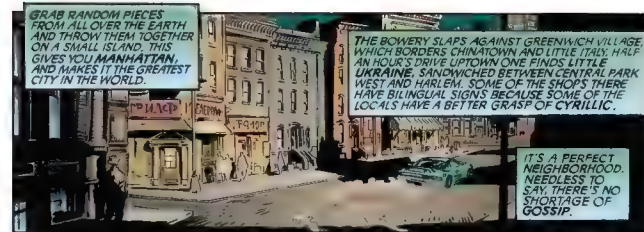




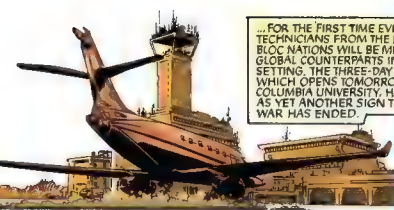












...FOR THE FIRST TIME EVER, NUCLEAR TECHNICIANS FROM THE FORMER SOVIET BLOC NATIONS WILL BE MEETING WITH THEIR GLOBAL COUNTERPARTS IN AN INFORMAL SETTING. THE THREE-DAY CONFERENCE, WHICH OPENS TOMORROW AT NEW YORK'S COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY, HAS BEEN WELLED AS YET ANOTHER SIGN THAT THE COLD WAR HAS ENDED.

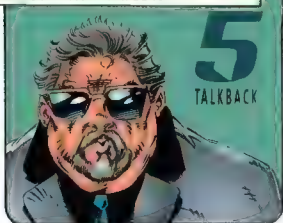
CNN

...AND IF YOU ASK ME, POLITICAL AND FINANCIAL ISSUES ASIDE, THESE GENTLEMEN NEED SOME SERIOUS FASHION ADVICE. FIRST TIME TO TOWN, FARMBOYS? I THINK MY GRANDFATHER WAS BURIED IN ONE OF THOSE SUITS. I HAVE A WORD OF ENGLISH THEY SHOULD ALL TAKE THE TIME TO LEARN: **ARMANI!**

E  
ENTERTAINMENT  
WEEKLY



...SO WHY IS IT THAT THESE GUYS FLEW SIX THOUSAND MILES TO BE TALKING ABOUT A-BOMBS? WE'VE NEVER GONNA USE THE DAMN THINGS. THIS IS ALL PHOTO-OPPORTUNITY! THE RANK AND FILE FOLKS OF THE UKRAINE ARE UP AGAINST OPPRESSIVE UNEMPLOYMENT AND HORRIBLE INFLATION. WHAT'S WORSE, THEY HAVE A RAMPANT PLAGUE OF GAMBLING ACTIVITY! WHY TALK ABOUT NUKES WHEN YOUR COUNTRY'S COURTING CERTAIN ECONOMIC COLLAPSE? IF THEY HAD ANY SENSE THEY'D KEEP ON SELLING US THEIR BOMBS INSTEAD OF SENDING THESE USELESS HAS-BEENS TO TALK ABOUT THE GOOD OLD DAYS. MAKES ME MISS THE COLD WAR. GET A NEW LIFE, GUYS.



5  
TALKBACK



HAILING LUGGAGE. ALWAYS LUGGAGE. THIRTY-ONE YEARS AGO, ANDREI ZLENKO LEFT HIS UKRAINIAN HOMETOWN ON A TEMPORARY VISA, CARRYING WHAT LITTLE HE OWNED IN SHABBY SUITCASES. EVERY DAY, AT HIS JOB, HE IS REMINDED OF THAT EVENT. HE WONDERES IF HE WILL STILL BE CARRYING LUGGAGE IN THE AFTERLIFE.

AT THE TIME HE LEFT, HE'D HAD NO INTENTION OF RETURNING TO THE OLD COUNTRY. NOW, HE SOMETIMES FINDS HIMSELF LOOKING WHISTLY BACK ON THOSE SIMPLER DAYS. UNTIL HE REMEMBERS THE SECRET POLICE.



THAT MEMORY HAS BECOME MORE VIVID JUST NOW. HE RECOGNIZES THE CHEAP LUGGAGE, THE NAMES OF THE RUSSIAN CITIES ON THE TRAVEL STICKERS, AND THE WATCHFUL EYES. HIS OLD NEIGHBOR, YOUSSEF'S CONSPICUOUSLY STURDY CARRYING CASE SLIDES INTO VIEW.

THE UNIFORM OF HIS OVERSEER IS DIFFERENT, YET STILL A UNIFORM. DAMNED THUGS. A MAN CAN RISK ALL TO TRANSPORT HIMSELF TO THE OTHER SIDE OF THE WORLD...



...AND THE WORST OF THE OLD LIFE CAN FIND A WAY TO FOLLOW.



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NO MATTER, THE OVERSEER IS JUST A FORMALITY. YOUSSEF IS AN OLD FRIEND, AND THAT FRIENDSHIP IS WORTH AT LEAST THIS SMALL FAVOR.

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY. IT IS LATE ON A SATURDAY EVENING, THE SECOND DAY OF THE "EAST-WEST ATOMIC WARFARE, SCIENCE AND APPLICATIONS CONFERENCE."

SEVERAL SPEAKERS FROM THE EASTERN BLOC DECIDE TO SAMPLE THE REAL AMERICA -- ONE THAT DECADES OF SOVIET PROPAGANDA HAD BURNED INTO THEIR MINDS

FAR FROM A WARNING, IT HAS BECOME A BEACON-- AN IDEAL.

«GENTLEMEN, WE HAVE ARRIVED.»

«A TRULY MAGNIFICENT RESULT OF FREE SOCIETY.»

«A TRULY MAGNIFICENT RESULT OF BREEDING TOO.»

«LET US GO INSIDE AND DRINK.»

TRANSLATED FROM RUSSIAN

« YOU KNOW, IT IS SUCH A SHAME THAT OUR SCIENCE WILL NEVER BE PUT TO PRACTICAL USE. »

« YES, OURS IS A DYING PROFESSION. WHAT GOOD IS IT TO KNOW HOW TO DESTROY THE EARTH, IF WE NEVER GET THE CHANCE? »

« I DON'T KNOW, PERHAPS THERE WILL YET BE A USE FOR OUR KNOWLEDGE. CHEER UP! »



< I WILL SEE YOU BACK AT THE CONFERENCE TOMORROW! >

< BUT YOU'VE THERE ARE MORE DARS TO VISIT. WHERE ARE YOU GOING? >

< TO SEE MY EXPATRIATE FRIENDS! >

ELSEWHEN/WHERE

LITTLE LIKE COMING UP.

THE PLACE IS KNOWN AS THE OVERLAP. IT IS A REALITY THAT INTERSECTS ALL PLANES OF EXISTENCE. IT IS THE BIRTHPLACE OF WHAT'S CALLED MAGIC.

THERE ARE NO SPIRITUAL OR PHYSICAL LAWS HERE. REALITY IS ELASTIC HERE.

THE REALM IS INHABITED BY POWERFUL BEINGS FROM A MILLION MILLION WORLDS, AS WELL AS FLORA, FAUNA AND TERRAIN FROM THOSE PLACES. ALL SCATTERED HAPHAZARDLY ACROSS AN INFINITE BACKDROP.

EACH DENIZEN HAS HIS/HER/ITS OWN PRIORITIES AND ASSIGNMENTS. THE OVERLAP IS PRIMARILY A PLACE OF DISCOVERY AND EXPERIMENTATION--A LABORATORY WITHOUT BOUNDS.

ONE SUCH GROUP IS MEETING NOW TO DISCUSS THEIR CURRENT FORAY INTO HUMAN SPIRITUAL SPACE--AND THE PHYSICS OF HELL.

THANKS FOR COMING. I COULDN'T BE MORE EXCITED, NOW THAT THINGS ARE MOVING!

I'VE BEEN KEEPING AN EYE ON THOSE EARTHANS AND THEIR ATOMIC FETISH--AND THEY HAVEN'T ALL KILLED EACH OTHER YET! SO, I'VE MANAGED TO PUSH THINGS IN A DIRECTION THAT'LL GIVE US SOME ANSWERS SOON.

OUR LAST SURVEY--WHERE A HELL-CREATURE WAS BLOWN UP--WAS A BUST, BUT THAT'S OKAY. WE WEREN'T PREPARED FOR THAT EVENT THE WAY WE ARE NOW.

THIS TIME, I PLUGGED A THOUGHT-PROGRAM INTO A SCIENTIST THERE. HE'LL DETONATE AN ATOM BOMB AT A PRE-SET TIME. A DEMON, THE LATEST HELL'S-PAWN WILL BE NEAR GROUND ZERO.

WE'VE PLACED AN AGENT THERE WHO'LL MAKE SURE THAT THE CREATURE'S IN PLACE. WE KNOW THE STRENGTH OF THE BUST, SO WE'VE TAKEN VIEWING PRECAUTIONS.

SO NOW--OUR CONCLUSIVE TEST TO DETERMINE IF ATOMICS CAN KILL DEMONS, AND IN THE PROCESS SCATTER THEIR INFERNAL MATTER!

AND THE BEST PART IS, THAT PERSNICKETY PEST HOUDINI IS THE AGENT ON THE SCENE! WE CLEAR UP TWO PROBLEMS AT ONCE!

AM I GOOD, OR WHAT?

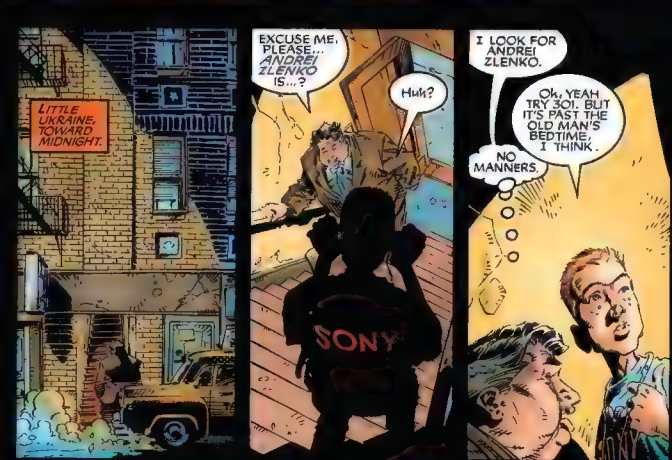
I TRUST THAT THE PEST WILL VERIFY THE NATURE OF THE HELL-CREATURE'S POWERS, AND TEMPERMENT FIRST. THAT WILL BE USEFUL INFORMATION SHOULD WE DECIDE TO WORK ON HELL IN THE FUTURE. THE PLACE IS RIFE FOR MANIPULATION.

HOUDINI IS USING ONE OF OUR PORTAL DEVICES. I TOLD HIM IT IS MORE EFFICIENT A TRANSPORT THAN MEDITATION, OR WHATEVER HIS USUAL METHOD. IN HIS CONFUSION OVER THE FAILURE OF OUR DEVICE, HE WILL NOT HAVE TIME TO ADJUST TO HIS NORMAL MODE OF TRANSFER, AND WILL PERISH.

BRILLIANT!

Hum... BUT HE ALWAYS ESCAPES...





EXCUSE ME, PLEASE... ANDREI ZLENKO IS...?

Huh?

I LOOK FOR ANDREI ZLENKO.

NO MANNERS.

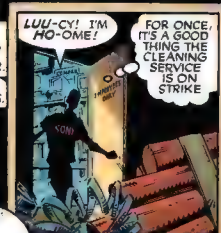
Oh, yeah try 301. But it's past the old man's bedtime, I think.

GREENWICH VILLAGE, HALF AN HOUR LATER...



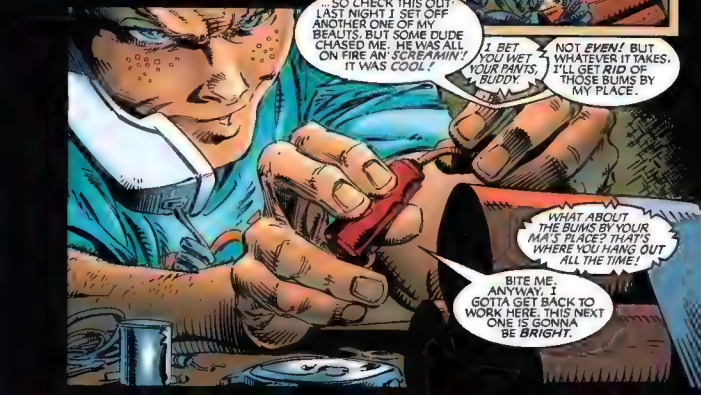
I GOTTA GET OUTTA THIS RUT. MY LIFE, IN THREE WORDS, WOULD BE: BORING. UNDER-TASKED. ASSISTANT MANAGER.

MAKE THAT FOUR WORDS.



LULU-CY! I'M HO-ONE!

FOR ONCE, IT'S A GOOD THING THE CLEANING SERVICE IS ON STRIKE



SO CHECK THIS OUT! LAST NIGHT I SET OFF ANOTHER ONE OF MY BEAUTIES, BUT SOME DUDE CHASED ME. HE WAS ALL ON FIRE AN' SCREAMIN'! IT WAS COOL!

I BET YOU HET YOUR PANTS, BUDDY.

NOT EVEN! BUT WHATEVER IT TAKES, I'LL GET RID OF THOSE BUMS BY MY PLACE.

WHAT ABOUT THE BUMS BY YOUR MA'S PLACE? THAT'S WHERE YOU HANG OUT ALL THE TIME!

BITE ME, ANYWAY. I GOTTA GET BACK TO WORK HERE. THIS NEXT ONE IS GONNA BE BRIGHT.



THERE'S NO WAY I'M GOING TO BELIEVE YOU'RE HARRY HOUNDINI.

WELL, YOU'RE A DEMON FROM HELL...!

AREN'T YOU DEAD OR SOME THING?

AREN'T YOU?

I GET YOUR POINT, BUT THIS IS PRETTY HARD TO BELIEVE...

WHICH PART? THAT I'M A DIMENSION-TRAVELLING HYPER-MADE TEN THOUSAND TIMES MORE POWERFUL THAN MY STAGE ACT LET ON, OR THAT YOU'RE AN INVULNERABLE, ULTRA-STRONG, HORRIBLE PUPPET OF HELL?

BOTH, GUYS.

HOWEVER, I DIDN'T COME HERE TO DISCUSS OUR MUTUALLY UNBELIEVABLE CONDITIONS. I'M HERE TO SPEAK ABOUT YOU, HELL'S PAWN... AND ABOUT YOUR POWERS.

WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT MY POWERS? YOU'RE JUST AN ESCAPE ARTIST.

JUST AN ESCAPE ARTIST? JUST AN ESCAPE ARTIST?? ARE YOU AWARE OF HOW MANY YEARS I'VE SPENT, NON-MAGICAL, GRUELING YEARS, LEARNING TO BE JUST AN ESCAPE ARTIST?

GOOD--I'VE TWEAKED HIS CURIOSITY.

AS IT TURNED OUT, THOSE LEVELS OF CONCENTRATION LED TO MY ACCIDENTAL EXTRA-DIMENSIONAL EXPLORERIES. THINGS BEYOND HOCUS-FOCUS AND MERE SPIRITUALISM.

NOW I KNOW MAGIC. REAL MAGIC.

SO WHAT DID YOU SEE? AN ILLUSION? A SMOKE PELLETT? TELEPORTATION?

THAT WAS MAGIC--THAT I MOVED FROM POINT A TO POINT B IN A NON-MUNDANE MANNER. IT WAS THE RESULT, NOT THE METHOD THAT MATTERED.

DOES IT MATTER?





MAGIC IS ABOUT PERCEPTION AND THE WILL'S ABILITY TO ALTER THAT PERCEPTION, USING ENERGIES GATHERED FROM BEYOND THIS WORLD.

MAGIC IS LIKE TELLING A LIE SO CONVINCING THAT EVEN THE UNIVERSE BELIEVES YOU! AND YOU, MY FRIEND, ARE A CREATURE OF MAGIC. ALBEIT OF FINITE POWER. HOWEVER, YOU NEEDN'T EXHAUST YOUR POWER.

...THAT SYMBIOTIC COSTUME CAN DO MUCH OF YOUR WORK FOR YOU.

GOOD GOD! QUICK-BEHIND YOU!

YOU SEE? WITH ONLY A THOUGHT, YOUR SUIT ATTACKS FOR YOU. IT EXPENDS ITS ENERGY, NOT YOURS.

NOW, IN THE CASE OF THIS BOMB...

THE SUIT APPRECIATED THE THREAT AND ACTED TO KEEP YOU FROM HARM. WITHOUT YOUR CONSCIOUS DIRECTION YOUR ENERGY EXPENDITURE? NONE.

AND THERE'S MORE.



YOUR MOST IMPORTANT POWER, AS A CREATURE OF SORCERY, IS MANIFESTATION. WITH A CLEAR HEAD AND A STRONG WILL YOU CAN CAUSE YOUR COSTUME TO MAKE JUST ABOUT ANYTHING, PROVIDED YOU UNDERSTAND ITS ESSENCE.

...ITS SIZE, THE WEIGHT, THE COLOR-- THAT SORT OF THING.

FOR EXAMPLE, THINK OF SOMETHING SMALL, LIKE A MARBLE.

YOU KNOW WHAT IT FEELS LIKE, LOOKS LIKE AND ALL. NOW FEEL YOUR DESIRE FOR SUCCESS FADE TO SURENESS. YOU WILL SUCCEED. LET THIS WILLPOWER ACTIVATE YOUR COSTUME. REACH OUT... THE MOLECULES ARE FLOATING FREE. GRAB THEM... THINK MARBLE GO ON.

PRETTY CLOSE... WE'LL TRY AGAIN...

BRAINS, DIVVY... YOU AN' ME WE TAKE THE RICH GUY IN THE TUX. LINK TAKE THE GEEK.

YEAH... heh heh... YOU SAID IT, SMOKEY!

MAKE ONE!

YEAH... heh heh... COME AN' GET ME.













**image** COMICS PRESENTS:

# "SHOWTIME"

PART 2



story

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Dedicated to:  
**ROY THOMAS**

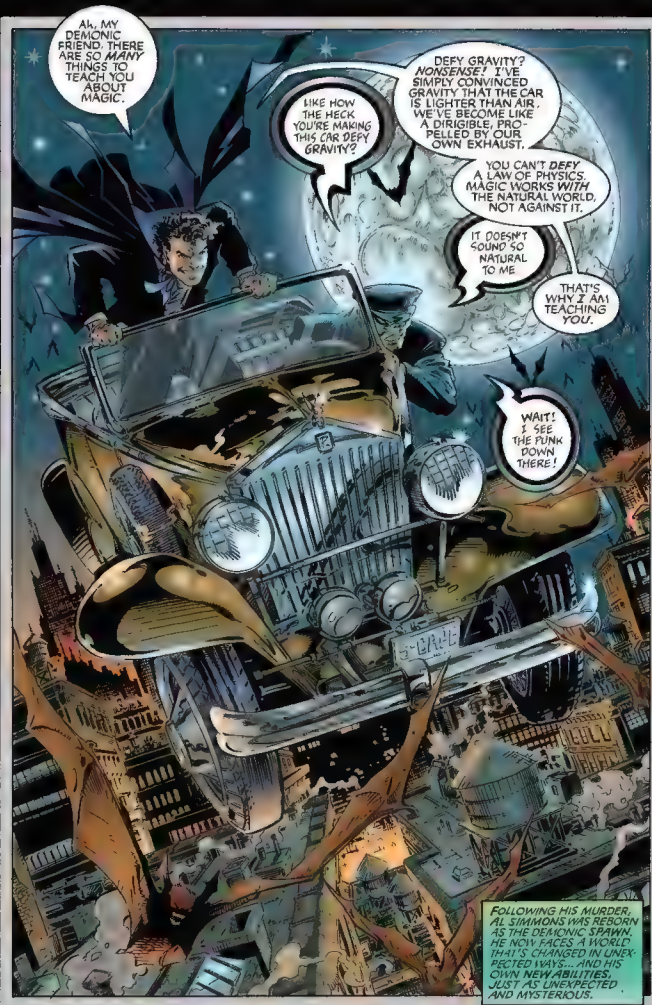
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**image**



THE LATE NIGHT SILENCE OF MANHATTAN'S LITTLE UKRAINE IS CUT BY THE ROAR OF THE BOMBER'S SPEEDING CAR.

UNKNOWN TO HIM, A DEMON AND HIS NEW-FOUND MENTOR ARE IN SILENT PURSUIT.

I WONDER WHO HE'S MEETING HERE.

MAN, THAT WAS THE BEST ONE YET?

GOTTA CATCH THE NEWS-- SEE IF I MADE IT THIS TIME!

WHO CARES? WE CAN GET HIM LATER.

I'VE GOT TWO INVITES TO THE MAGICIANS CLUB FOR SOME AFTER-HOURS FUN. ONE OF THEIR BOYS HAS A TRUNK OF MINE I'D LIKE TO LOOK IN ON. COMING?

HE'S GOTTA BE WORKING FOR THE MOB OR SOMEONE.

THE HECK WITH THAT! I'M STICKING TO THIS KID LIKE GLUE!

SOMETHING'LL TURN UP.

SUIT YOURSELF. I'LL SEE YOU IN A FEW HOURS.

TIME PASSES SLOWLY... BUT WHEN HE WAS ALIVE AND A SOLDIER, AL SIMMONS WAS USED TO WAITING.



MONTREY, CALIFORNIA... LANGUAGE IMMERSION SCHOOL. QUITE A FEW YEARS AGO. I DON'T KNOW HOW I GOT THROUGH IT.

GOOD THING I HAD A BUDDY'S PAPERS TO READ. THAT'S WHEN I MET--

--TERRY! THAT'S HIS VOICE DOWN THERE!

<EXCUSE ME PLEASE, GENTLEMEN. I AM SPECIAL AGENT FITZGERALD, WITH THE U.S. GOVERNMENT. MAY I ASK YOU SOME QUESTIONS?>

WHAT'S HE DOING HERE?

<BUT OF COURSE COME WITH US, PLEASE. IT IS WARMER INSIDE!>

<YOUR ACCENT NEEDS PRACTICE, LITTLE SPY. LET ME TEACH YOU.>

Heeee!









...RUMOR HAS IT THAT OUR VISITING EASTERN EUROPEAN DIGITARIES DID SOME DECIDEDLY UNOIGNIFIED CAROUSING LAST NIGHT, AND SHOWED UP AT ALL THE WRONG PARTIES. NEED A BROMO, COMRADES? SEEMS ONE OF YOUR PALS IS STILL OUT SLEEPING IT OFF.

WHAT HIT ME? WHAT WAS UP WITH THOSE GUYS?

CAN'T LET TERRY KNOW WHO I AM... NOT YET.



YOUSSEF VOLOKHOV, A VISITING SCIENTIST FROM THE EAST-WEST ATOMIC WEAPONS, SCIENCE AND APPLICATIONS CONFERENCE, IS STILL UNACCOUNTED FOR. SOURCES CLOSE TO THE NYPD HAVE INFORMED US OF A MAJOR SEARCH FOR THE MISSING TECHNICIAN. FOUL PLAY HAS NOT BEEN RULED OUT.

CNN



I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT. THANKS, MISTER. FOR PULLIN' MY SKILLET OUT OF THE FIRE.

Y'KNOW, BROTHER, YOU MIGHT WANT TO BE MORE CAREFUL WITH THE PEOPLE AROUND HERE.

I'LL NEVER LET WANDA BECOME A WIDOW AGAIN.



IF YOU ASK ME, IT'S ALL ABOUT MONEY. THE RUSSIANS HAVE ALL THE ROMANCE AND LIMELIGHT OF BIG CHANGES. WHAT GETS LOST IN THE SHUFFLE IS THAT THE OTHER EX-SOVIET REPUBLICS ARE ALSO STRUGGLING FOR A NEW SYSTEM. THEY NEED MONEY. TOO. THE UKRAINE, WHERE VOLOKHOV IS FROM, COULD USE EVEN A FIFTH OF THE AID THAT HAS BEEN PROMISED TO RUSSIA.

PERCIVAL ESACSEN-SMYTHE, PLEASE...

FITZGERALD, TERENCE D., ASA-923771...

YO, PERCY. I JUST GOT THE BE-JESUS KICKED OUT OF ME. NAH, SOME MATCH-CRISP DUDE HELPED ME OUT.

NO, NO. WHAT I NEED IS FOR YOU TO ROLL ME DOWN SOME MUSCLE. STAT. THAT'S RIGHT, YOU BIT OFF MORE THAN I CAN CHEW!



< I HAVE A PROBLEM, MY FRIEND. I AM DUE TO GIVE MY LECTURE IN TWO HOURS. HOWEVER, A KEY ELECTRICAL ELEMENT WAS DAMAGED ON MY JOURNEY. I AM AT A LOSS. >

< TOO DRAFTY IN HERE. >

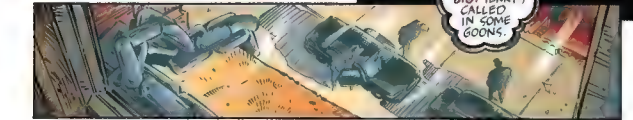
< MY NEIGHBOR'S SON WORKS FOR AN ELECTRONICS FIRM. HE'S QUITE SKILLED. IN FACT, HE SHOULD BE HERE NOW GETTING HIS LAUNDRY FROM HER. SHE LIVES IN NUMBER-- >



< BIG DOWNSTAIRS LET US GO BACK TO THE BOY. >

ATOMIC WEAPONS? I KNEW THERE WAS MORE HERE THAN MEETS THE EYE! I DON'T KNOW WHO THE KID'S WORKING FOR, THOUGH.

THIS MUST BE BIG. TERRY'S CALLED IN SOME GOONS.



SO WHAT HAPPENED HERE?

ACTUALLY, I WOKE UP OUTSIDE.

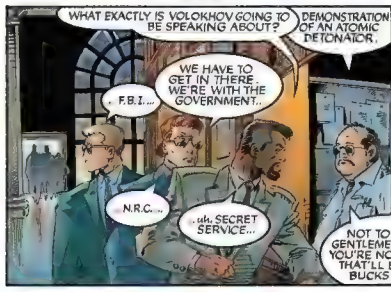
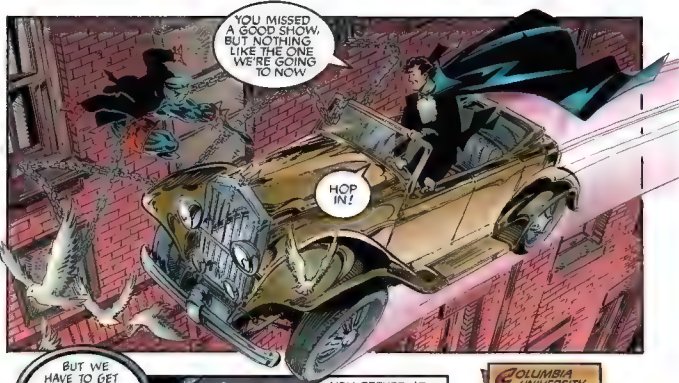
HOW LONG AGO DID VOLOKHOV LEAVE?

I DO NOT KNOW. HE WENT TO THE UNIVERSITY.

WHAT ABOUT THESE BOZOS? YOU'RE IN CHARGE HERE.

I'M NOT HURT... FORGET THEM. WE HAVE TO GET TO COLUMBIA, A.S.A.P.

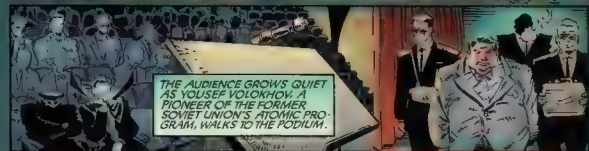






IT IS A SURPRISINGLY LARGE TURN-OUT FOR THE DRY TOPIC AT HAND. ONLY THE CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS OR DELOUT WEAPONRY WOMANS WOULD BE INTERESTED IN FINELY ENGINEERED ATOMIC DETONATORS.

THEY WON'T BE DISAPPOINTED

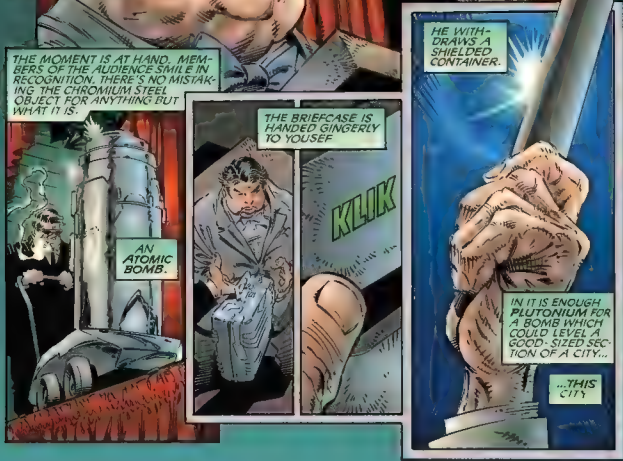


THE AUDIENCE GROWS QUIET AS YOUSEF VOLKHOV, A PIONEER OF THE FORMER SOVIET UNION'S ATOMIC PROGRAM, WALKS TO THE PODIUM.



THIS IS HIS PROUD-EST MOMENT. HE HAS SPENT OVER FORTY YEARS IN TOP-SECRET RESEARCH. NOW, AT LAST, HE CAN GAIN THE EYES AND EARS OF THE WORLD.

BUT THERE IS ANOTHER REASON FOR YOUSEF TO BE HERE. HIS OBJECTIVE IS NOT RECOGNITION. THE WELL-BEING OF HIS COUNTRY, THE UKRAINE, IS HIS SOLE CONCERN.



THE MOMENT IS AT HAND. MEMBERS OF THE AUDIENCE SMILE IN RECOGNITION. THERE'S NO MISTAKING THE CHROMIUM STEEL OBJECT FOR ANYTHING BUT WHAT IT IS.

THE BRIEFCASE IS HANDLED GINGERLY TO YOUSEF

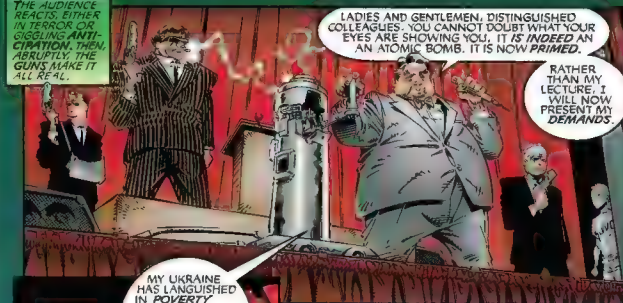
KLIK

HE WITH-DRAWS A SHIELDED CONTAINER.

IN IT IS ENOUGH PLUTONIUM FOR A BOMB WHICH COULD LEVEL A GOOD-SIZED SECTION OF A CITY...

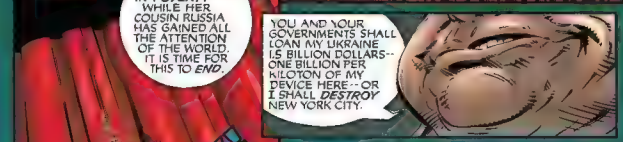
...THIS CITY

THE AUDIENCE REACTS, EITHER IN TERROR OR GIGGLING ANTI-CIPITATION. THEN, ABRUPTLY, THE GUNS MAKE IT ALL REAL.



LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, DISTINGUISHED COLLEAGUES, YOU CANNOT DOUBT WHAT YOUR EYES ARE SHOWING YOU. IT IS **INDEED** AN AN ATOMIC BOMB. IT IS NOW PRIMED.

RATHER THAN MY LECTURE, I WILL NOW PRESENT MY DEMANDS



MY UKRAINE HAS LANGUISHED IN POVERTY. WHILE HER COUSIN RUSSIA HAS GAINED ALL THE ATTENTION OF THE WORLD, IT IS TIME FOR THIS TO END.

YOU AND YOUR GOVERNMENTS SHALL LOAN MY UKRAINE ONE BILLION DOLLARS--ONE BILLION DOLLARS PER NUCLEON OF MY DEVICE HERE--OR I SHALL DESTROY NEW YORK CITY.



KA-CHIK!



GUNS! EVERY-BODY GET DOWN!!

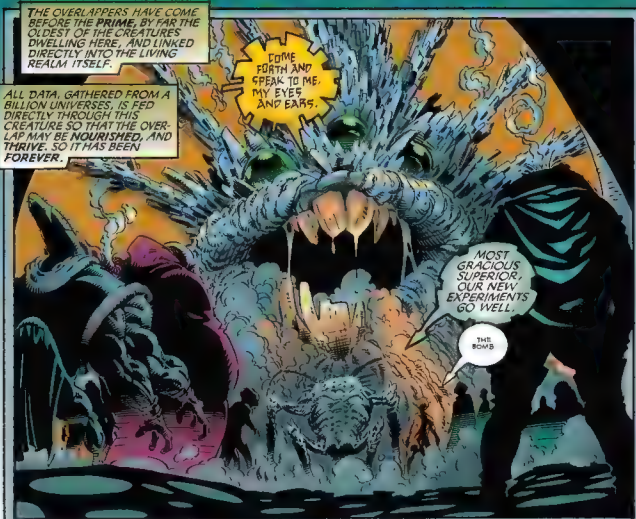
ATOMIC TERRORISTS! PERCY WAS RIGHT!! NO-LEE-!!

CAN'T GET A CLEAR LINE OF FIRE!

GUNS! COMMES WITH GUNS!!

... AND SORCERER WITH BIGGER GUN.





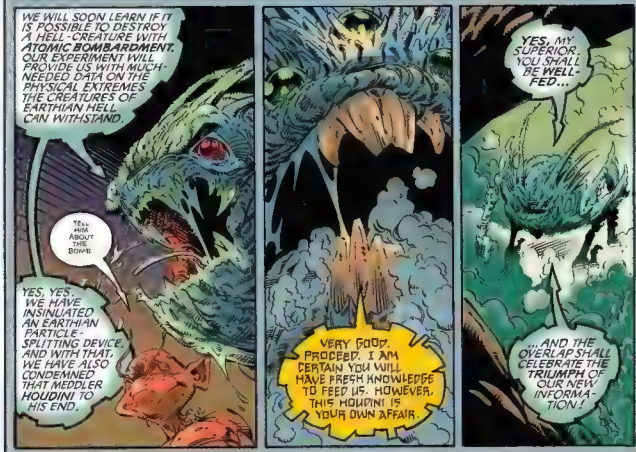
THE OVERLAPERS HAVE COME BEFORE THE PRIME, BY FAR THE OLDEST OF THE CREATURES DWELLING HERE, AND LINKED DIRECTLY INTO THE LIVING REALM ITSELF.

ALL DATA GATHERED FROM A BILLION UNIVERSES IS FED DIRECTLY THROUGH THIS CREATURE SO THAT THE OVERLAP MAY RE-NOURISHED, AND THRIVE. SO IT HAS BEEN FOREVER.

COME FORTH AND SPEAK TO ME, MY EYES AND EARS.

MOST GRACIOUS SUPERIOR, OUR NEW EXPERIMENTS GO WELL.

THE BOMB



WE WILL SOON LEARN IF IT IS POSSIBLE TO DESTROY A HELL-CREATURE WITH ATOMIC BOMBARDMENT. OUR EXPERIMENT WILL PROVIDE US WITH MUCH-NEEDED DATA ON THE PHYSICAL EXTREMES THE CREATURES OF EARTHIAN HELL CAN WITHSTAND.

TELL ME ABOUT THIS BOMB.

YES, YES WE HAVE INSITUATED AN EARTHIAN PARTICLE-SPLITTING DEVICE AND WITH THAT, WE HAVE ALSO CONDEMNED THAT MEDDLER HOUDINI TO HIS END.

VERY GOOD. PROCEED. I AM CERTAIN YOU WILL HAVE FRESH KNOWLEDGE TO FEED US. HOWEVER, THIS HOUDINI IS YOUR OWN AFFAIR.

YES, MY SUPERIOR, YOU SHALL BE WELL-FED...

AND THE OVERLAP SHALL CELEBRATE THE TRIUMPH OF OUR NEW INFORMATION.



WHILE ON EARTH, THE TEST CONTINUES...

PLEASE EVERYONE TO REMAIN CALM. YOUR GUNS WILL NOT STOP US.

!!!

ALWAYS THE PERFORMER, HOUDINI STARTS THE SHOW WITH A SHOT INTO THE AIR.

FRANCO NEVER SNAP, INSTINCT DIRECTS SHOTS AT THE ONLY FAMILIAR TARGET - SPECIAL AGENT FITZGERALD.

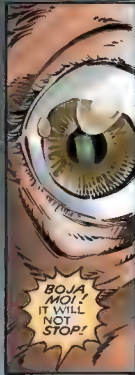
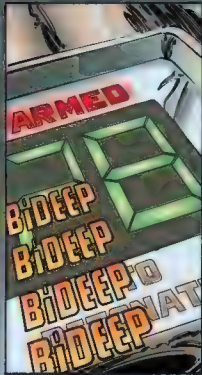
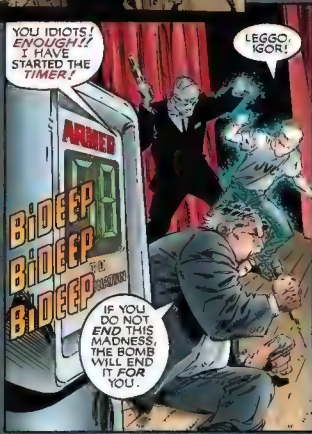
KOOM

B L A M

JEE-ZUS!

Noooo!

THE EXITS  
ARE FEW  
AND FAR  
BETWEEN.  
CHAOS  
ENSUES.







FOCUS!!!

HURTS!

TRANSMIT  
THE  
BLAST...

...CHANNEL...

...THE  
BLAST...

REALITY SHATTERS  
LIKE CANDIED GLASS.  
THE PART OF OUR  
UNIVERSE CONTAINING  
THE BOMB IS TRAPPED  
BY THE SCENERY, AND  
SHUNTED INTO  
ANOTHER PLACE.

THE INSTANT  
OF THE  
ATOM'S SPLIT--  
THE TIME  
WHEN FIERCE  
ENERGIES ARE  
RELEASED--  
NEVER EVEN  
HAPPENS  
ON OUR  
WORLD.

SPAWN CARRIES ON,  
UNWARE  
OF THE  
PACKAGED  
MOMENT  
BEYOND HIM,  
VENTING HIS  
RAGE ON  
TERRY'S  
ATTACKER.

MAGICIANS' CLUB  
STORAGE

AS NATURE  
ABHORS A  
VACUUM, SO TOO  
DOES REALITY.  
ONLY MORE SO.  
THE STAGE AND  
OTHER PARTS OF  
OUR WORLD ARE  
RENT VIOLENTLY  
FROM THIS  
PLANE, FOLLOWING  
IN THE WAKE OF  
THE TRANS-  
PORTED BLAST.

COMPRESSED INTO A BEAM OF POWER, THE REALITY  
ENVELOPE IS SHOVED THROUGH THE MAIL SLOT OF  
AN UNSUSPECTING ADDRESSEE. BY REFLEX,  
HOUDINI USES THE MEMORY OF HIS TRUNK AS A  
FOCUS-- AND SENDS THE TIGHT PARTICULATE  
STREAM WHERE IT WILL DO THE MOST GOOD.

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY'S  
LECTURE HALL IS BUZZING  
WITH AMAZED SCIENTISTS.  
THERE WAS LESS THAN A  
SECOND OF LIGHT-- BUT  
THAT WAS ENOUGH TO  
INSPIRE IDLE SPECULATION  
FOR YEARS TO COME.



FRIED.  
DAMN, I HAD  
SO MUCH TO  
LEARN FROM YOU  
HOUDINI-- IF YOU  
REALLY WERE  
HOUDINI.

A  
FLASH...

AND  
THEN...

IT  
VANISHED...

OR  
SOME-  
THING...

DID YOU  
HEAR  
SOMETHING?

Ek-- IT WAS  
JUST THE ICE  
MACHINE  
DOWN THE  
HALL.

MOMENTS AGO,  
THESE GEIGER  
COUNTERS WERE  
SET OFF THE SCALE  
BY RADIATION  
FROM VOKROV'S  
BOMB.

GEIGER  
1945

SO THOROUGH  
WAS HOUDINI'S  
MAGIC THAT, FOR  
A MOMENT, EVEN  
NORMAL BACK-  
GROUND LEVELS  
WERE FLAT.





... APPEARS TO BE AN ATTEMPTED NUCLEAR TERRORIST ACTION AT COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY. WHAT YOU ARE SEEING IS AMATEUR VIDEO, SHOWING WHAT WE BELIEVE TO BE TWO OF THE TERRORISTS. POLICE WILL SAY ONLY THAT ONE IS AN AMERICAN, THE OTHER A UKRAINIAN NATIONAL, AND THAT THERE WAS SOME SORT OF BOMB THREAT.

WITNESSES CLAIM THAT THOUGH IT SEEMED THERE WAS AN EXPLOSION, THE EVIDENCE IS IN DISPUTE. HOWEVER, THE PRESENCE OF AN ARMED ATOMIC BOMB HAS BEEN CORROBORATED BY ANY NUMBER OF EXPERT WITNESSES.

FIRE CREWS ARE LOOKING FOR ANY POSSIBLE CONNECTION BETWEEN THESE REPORTS AND A BLACKENED PART OF THE HALL WHERE THE STAGE HAD BEEN.

THE ALLEGED THREAT WAS APPARENTLY AVERTED BY A SUSPECTED YOUNGBLOOD, THOUGHT TO HAVE BEEN "FRIED TO A CRISP" BY SOME UNKNOWN FORCE AT THE SCENE.

THE GOVERNMENT HAS DENIED BOTH THE REPORT OF THE NUCLEAR THREAT AND SUPPOSED EXPLOSION, AND OF ANY YOUNGBLOOD ACTIVITY IN NEW YORK CITY AT THAT TIME. COULD THIS HAVE BEEN A ROGUE "BLOOD," CONNECTED TO SOME PREVIOUSLY UNKNOWN ORGANIZATION?

CERTAINLY SOMEONE OR SOMETHING WAS RECORDED LEAVING THE SCENE. HERE WITH AN ANALYSIS

ELSEWHERE ON THE COLUMBIA CAMPUS...

SEEMS HOUDINI LEFT THE CAR INVISIBLE. THAT MAKES IT UP TO ME TO FIND IT.

JUST CONCENTRATE. USE THE COSTUME TO REARRANGE THE PHOTONS... MAKE THE CAR REAPPEAR.

PERFECT. I GUESS I MIGHT BETTER AT MAGIC THAN I THOUGHT.

SORRY ABOUT THE MYSTERY HERE, TERRY, BUT I CAN'T HAVE YOU KNOW ABOUT ME JUST YET.

DAMMIT! HOUDINI HAD THE KEYS!

FINE. I'LL JUST MANIFEST THEM.

EASY!

BY CREATING THE KEY, SPAWN PASSED HOUDINI'S TEST

WHAT THE--

THE CAR'S PURPOSE THUS FULFILLED, IT DEFAULTS BACK TO THE OVERLAP.



BACK IN THE BOWERY, LIFE HAS RETURNED TO NORMAL IN THE HOURS AFTER THE LECTURE.

THE POLICE, LEFT WITH NO EVIDENCE OF A CRIME, HAVE DROPPED ALL CHARGES AGAINST PORSCHE MACNEIL.

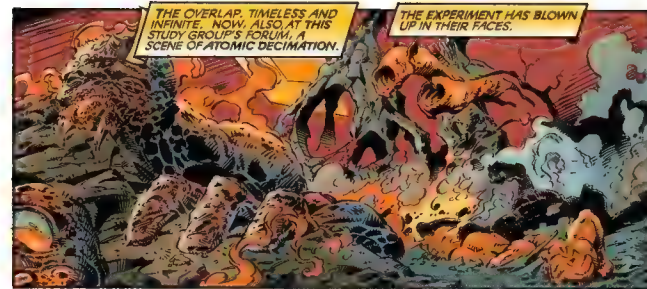
I SHOULD'VE GOT SOME FOOD FROM MOM, TOO. I'M STARVED.

HEY, SOMEONE'S BEEN IN HERE. I--

THOUGH LOUD, THE BLAST WAS HARMLESS. CONFETTI FALLS, A PAPER RAIN CARRYING A NOTE WITH IT.

DON'T EVER MESS WITH ME OR MY ALLEY AGAIN. OR THE NEXT ONE TAKES OUT YOU AND THE WHOLE BUILDING WITH IT.

— SPAWN



IN THE DISTANCE, UNEXPECTED GUESTS ATTEMPT TO REGAIN THEIR EQUILIBRIUM.

FOR SOME, THE SUFFERING IS OBVIOUS.

GREGOR... HAVE WE DIED?

WHERE ARE WE? HOW LONG MUST WE STAY HERE?

IS THIS THE AFTERLIFE?

FOR THE OTHER OVERLAPERS, A NEW FIELD OF INQUIRY BECKONS: WHICH LIFEFORMS WILL BENEFIT FROM THE RADIATION... AND WHICH WILL DIE, OR SUFFER, OR MUTATE.

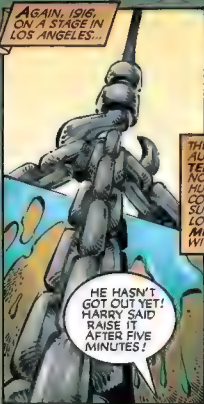
NOT AT ALL, EARTHIAN SCUM! NOW THAT YOUR ENERGY HAS BEEN DAMPENED, YOU HAVE MUCH TO ANSWER FOR, AND EVEN MORE TO CLEAN!

IT WILL BE INTERESTING TO SEE HOW YOUR KIND FAIR AGAINST RADIATION BURNS. LITTLE HUMANS, WE HAVE FOREVER TO LEARN!

RAAGH! CLEAN! CLEAN!

FOREVER! RAAGH! FOREVER!

AGAIN, 1916,  
ON A STAGE IN  
LOS ANGELES...

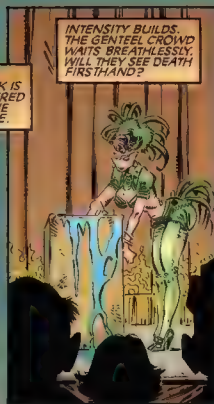


THE MUSHED  
AUDIENCE IS  
TERRIFIED.  
NO NORMAL  
HUMAN BEING  
COULD HAVE  
SURVIVED THIS  
LONG - FIVE  
MINUTES! -  
WITHOUT AIR.

HE HASN'T  
GOT OUT YET!  
HARRY SAID  
RAISE IT  
AFTER FIVE  
MINUTES!



THE  
TRUNK IS  
LOWERED  
TO THE  
STAGE.



INTENSITY BUILDS.  
THE GENTEEL CROWD  
WAITS BREATHLESSLY.  
WILL THEY SEE DEATH  
FIRSTHAND?



ONCE MORE,  
HARRY HULDINI  
HAS MYSTIFIED  
THEM.

THANK  
YOU!  
YOU'RE  
TOO  
KIND!

A COUPLE  
MORE MANACLES  
AND I WOULDN'T'VE  
HAD THE SECONDS  
TO SLIP AWAY  
AND BACK!

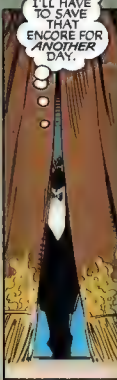
Hm... PERHAPS  
I CAN WORK THAT  
"DIVERTED EXPLO-  
SION" GIMMICK  
INTO MY SHOW.

OF COURSE,  
R-12 MIGHT  
HAVE SOME-  
THING TO SAY  
AGAINST  
THAT!

LUCKY  
FOR HIM,  
I'LL HAVE  
TO SAVE  
THAT  
ENCORE FOR  
ANOTHER  
DAY.

Ahhh...  
MY PUBLIC.  
I RETURN  
FOR YOU YET  
AGAIN!

WHERE'S  
HIS  
CAPE?



The END





**Image**

**21**  
**JUN**

DIGITAL  
EDITION

# SPAWN



W. FORD  
94

**image** COMICS PRESENTS:

# "the HUNT"

PART 1



story & art

**TODD McFARLANE**

inks

**MARK PENNINGTON**

copy editor & letters

**TOM ORZECOWSKI**

color

**STEVE OLIFF**

and **OLYOPTICS**

Dedicated to:  
**MIKE GRELL**



FOR IMAGE COMICS

LARRY MARDER - exec. director TONY LOBITO - publisher

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Director Of Creative Development: TERRY FITZGERALD.  
Graphics Coordinator: JULIA SIMMONS.

**image**

HEY!

WATCH  
IT, YOU  
BUTCHER!

SETTLE  
DOWN,  
YOU BIG  
BABY.

CRIPES.

YOU'D  
THINK I WAS  
MURDERIN'  
YA OR  
SOMETHING.

NOW  
STOP  
MOVING.

OW!

IN A CITY OF A  
MILLION VOICES,  
WE FOCUS OUR  
ATTENTION UPON  
TWO IN PARTICULAR.

ONE IS THE  
CURRENT RULER  
OF NEW YORK'S  
HIDDEN BACK  
STREETS -- A  
FIGURE WHOSE  
LIFE HAS GROWN  
AS TWISTED AS  
THE MATTED HAIR  
OF THE STRAY  
DOGS WHICH  
WANDER THOSE  
SAME ALLEYWAYS.

THE OTHER  
BELONGS TO  
ONE OF THE  
HARDY HOME-  
LESS UNDER  
THIS NEW  
SENTINEL'S  
WATCHFUL  
EYE...

...ONE WHOSE  
GRATITUDE IS  
NEVER-ELY BEYOND  
WORDS.

JEE-ZU!  
WHAT A  
WIMP!

LISTEN,  
I'M  
DOING THE  
BEST I  
CAN.

SO A  
LITTLE  
RESPECT AND  
THANKFULNESS  
MIGHT NOT  
KILL YA--  
YOU THINK?

LOOK,  
I'M NOT  
COMPLAINING  
OR ANY-  
THING..

...BUT  
WHEN YOU  
SAID YOU'D  
HAD SOME  
MEDICAL  
EXPERIENCE, I  
ASSUMED YOU  
MEANT MORE  
THAN JUST THE  
BARBARIC,  
STONE-AGE  
KIND.

EVERY-  
ONE A  
FRIGGIN'  
CRITIC.

CONSIDER  
YOURSELF  
LUCKY I DIDN'T  
DECIDE TO  
TIE ONE ON  
BEFORE I  
STARTED.

HA HA  
THEN, I'D  
REALLY BE  
SHAKY.

GET IT?!

TIE ONE ON?

TIE?

HAHAHAHA

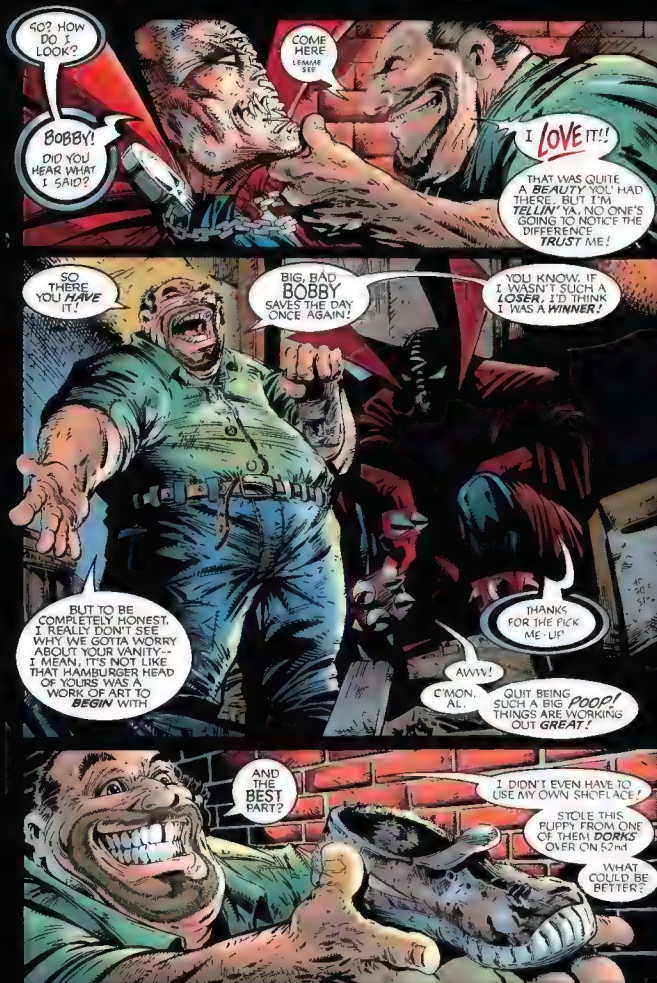
I CAN  
HARDLY  
IMAGINE  
MYSELF.

THERE!  
THAT JUST  
ABOUT DOES  
IT. BY THE WAY,  
I FORGOT TO  
ASK--HOW'D  
YOU GET THAT  
NASTY GASH  
ANYWAY?

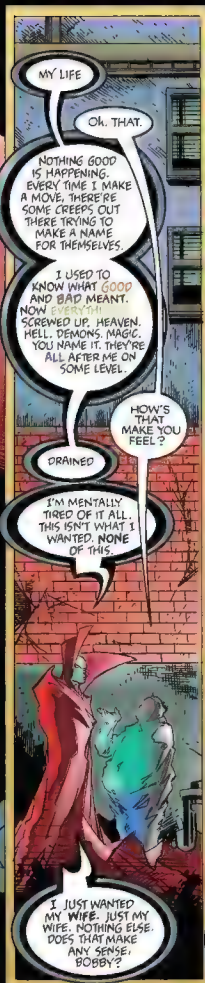




\*SEE ISSUES #8 AND 20  
NOT OUT YET\*







MY LIFE

OH, THAT

NOTHING GOOD  
IS HAPPENING  
EVERY TIME I MAKE  
A MOVE, THERE'RE  
SOME CREEPS OUT  
THERE TRYING TO  
MAKE A NAME  
FOR THEMSELVES

I USED TO  
KNOW WHAT GOOD  
AND BAD MEANT.  
NOW EVERYTHING  
SCREWED UP. HEAVEN,  
HELL, DEMONS, MAGIC.  
YOU NAME IT, THEY'RE  
ALL AFTER ME ON  
SOME LEVEL

HOW'S THAT  
MAKE YOU  
FEEL?

DRAINED

I'M MENTALLY  
TIRED OF IT ALL.  
THIS ISN'T WHAT I  
WANTED, NONE  
OF THIS

I JUST WANTED  
MY WIFE. JUST MY  
WIFE. NOTHING ELSE.  
DOES THAT MAKE  
ANY SENSE,  
BOBBY?

PERFECT.

LOOK, AL, I  
KNOW I'M NOT THE  
BEST-LOOKER IN TOWN  
AND DON'T HAVE MUCH  
OF A LIFE, BUT I USED  
TO BE MARRIED, TOO.  
SAINT OF A WOMAN. PUT  
UP WITH ME FOR OVER  
TWENTY YEARS, ALWAYS  
THERE FOR ME.

MET HER AT  
A CHURCH FUNCTION  
IN '87. PRETTIEST GAIL  
BY FAR. Y'KNOW, PEOPLE  
TAKE THOSE KINDS OF  
THINGS FOR GRANTED. I  
KNOW I DID. TWENTY-  
THREE YEARS OF  
HAPPINESS... THEN

BOOM.  
IT'S  
OVER

CANCER  
OF THE BRAIN. I  
DON'T RECOMMEND  
IT.

IT ATE  
AWAY AT THAT  
WOMAN LIKE  
BY THE  
TIME THE END CAME  
SHE DIDN'T KNOW  
WHO I WAS

COULDN'T  
EAT. CRAP.  
MOVE. NOTHING.  
IN SPITE OF IT ALL,  
THOUGH, SHE DIDN'T  
PUT UP A FUSSE.  
DIDN'T WANT TO  
BOTHER ANY  
ONE.

ESPECIALLY  
NOT ME.

THEN THE  
DOCTORS--WITH  
ALL THEIR SO-CALLED  
POWERS--TOLD ME  
THEY COULDN'T  
HELP.

THIS WOMAN  
WHO WAS A SAINT.  
THEY COULDN'T EASE  
HER SUFFERING.

THEN THESE  
BUGGERS MADE ME  
SIGN PAPERS TO  
PULL THE PLUG.

BLAM. END OF  
GAME

YOU CAN  
SEE HOW WELL  
I'VE HANDLED IT  
SINCE. WASN'T MAN  
ENOUGH TO PICK UP  
THE PIECES AND CARRY  
ON. SO I WALLOWED  
IN SELF-PITY  
TIL I LOST  
EVERYTHING

I'M  
SORRY,  
BOBBY

I DON'T  
WANT YOUR PITY.  
THAT'S NOT THE  
POINT. I JUST  
DON'T WANT YOU  
TURNING OUT TO BE  
LIKE ME OR THE  
OTHER GUYS.

WE LOOK  
UP TO YOU.



GAWD!

LISTEN TO ME  
BLUBBERING LIKE  
A TWO-YEAR-OLD

WHAT I'M  
TRYING TO  
SAY IS THAT  
YOU'RE  
OKAY!

YOU NEED TO  
FIND YOUR ANSWERS.  
DO IT. JUST DON'T  
LOSE SIGHT OF WHAT  
YOU ALREADY  
HAVE.

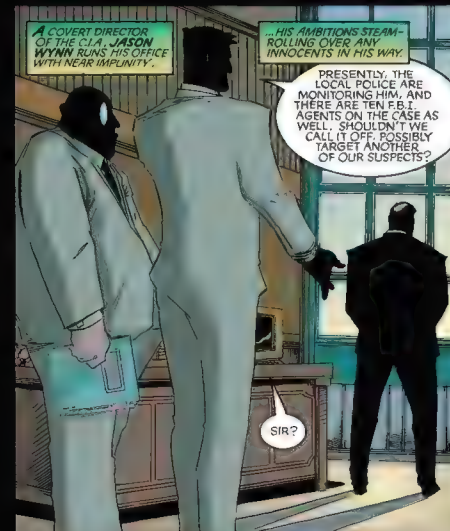
WHICH  
IS?

US

SINCE YOU  
SHOWED UP, THINGS  
HAVE BEEN STRANGE  
AROUND HERE. WELL,  
MAYBE ITS YOU. MAYBE  
NOT. WHO CARES. WHAT  
I DO KNOW IS THAT THE  
BOYS AND I LIKE  
HAVING YOU  
AROUND.

MAKES US  
FEEL A BIT COCKY.  
IF YOU KNOW  
WHAT I MEAN.





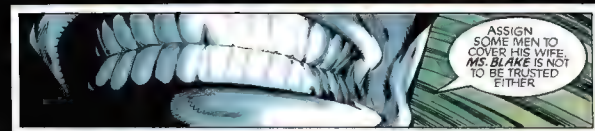
TRAPPED. IT'S NOT A POSITION JASON WYNN HAS FOUND HIMSELF IN VERY OFTEN. HIS TWO-DASHED SURVIVANCE HAS FURTHER COMPLICATED THE SITUATION. THE PRESIDENT WASN'T SATISFIED WITH WYNN'S EXPLANATION. TO PULL MEN FROM AN OPERATION WOULD BE A CLEAR ADMISSION OF ERROR...

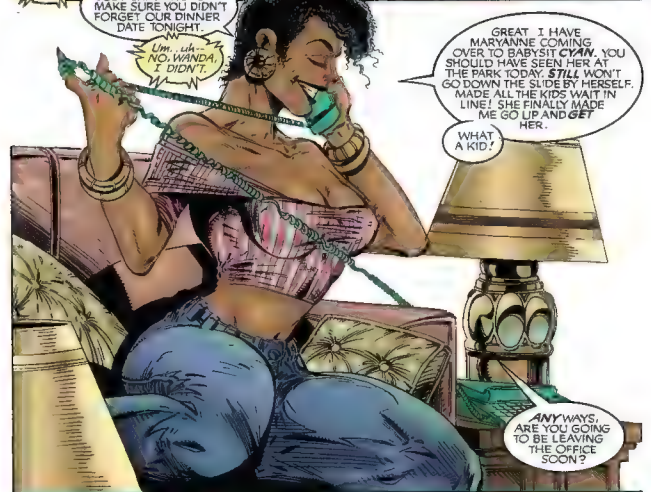
...AND WEAKNESS.

CONTINUE SURVEILLANCE AS USUAL.

FITZGERALD REMAINS OUR PRIME TARGET.

CONTINUES WITH US











ELSEWHERE IN THE CITY, AL SIMMONS HUIDLES QUIETLY IN THE DISCARDED WASTE OF THE 'REAL' WORLD-- CAMOUFLAGED BY THE MAKESHIFT BEDDING OF THE HOMELESS.

DURING THESE LONELIEST HOURS, HE WONDERS HOW HE HAS BECOME SO DISTRACTED FROM THE SIMPLE GOAL OF THIS NEW 'LIFE': TO SET THINGS STRAIGHT WITH HIS WIDOW, WANDA BLAKE.

HE'S NOT SURPRISED THEN, AS ANOTHER COMPLICATION CROPS UP.

AL!

HEY AL!!

GET UP, MAN!  
WE GOT TROUBLE AGAIN!

WHAT IS IT, JOCKY?

SOME NAZI-SKINHEAD IS OUT LOOKING FOR YOU, SAYS HE WAS SENT BY THE **MAFIA**. SAYS HE'S GOING TO KNOCK A FEW HEADS UNTIL YOU SHOW, SAYS YOU'RE A PUSSY!

ANOTHER SNARL IN SIMMONS' 'ANGLED' EXISTENCE. ANOTHER HOTSHOT LOOKING TO MAKE A NAME FOR HIMSELF AT THE HELLSPAWN'S EXPENSE.

WHAT HE'D BEEN SELFISHLY CONSIDERING AS 'DISTRACTIONS' HAVE SURFACED AS ACTUAL THREATS. THESE FOLKS ARE FAMILY NOW, UNDER HIS PROTECTION, AND AL SIMMONS IS AT HEART A FAMILY MAN.

ON TOO MANY LEVELS, HIS FEELINGS ABOUT FAMILY AREN'T BEING MADE CLEAR.

IT'S TIME TO EMPHASIZE THAT POINT, JOCKY AND WITH FEELING.



I DON'T GIVE A CRAP WHOSE SIDE YOU THINK YOU'RE ON.

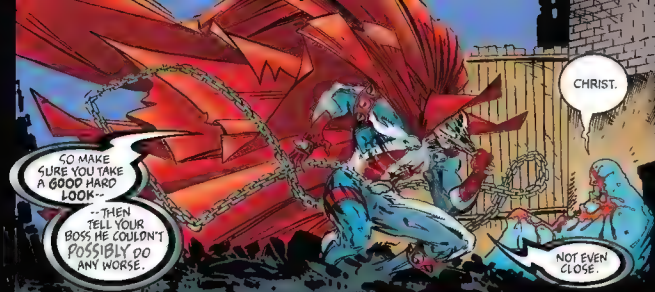
I WANT ME YOUR MAGIC-MAN

WHAT KIND OF SAVIOR LIVES ON THE STREETS? MUST BE SOME FRIGGIN' **PSYCHO!**

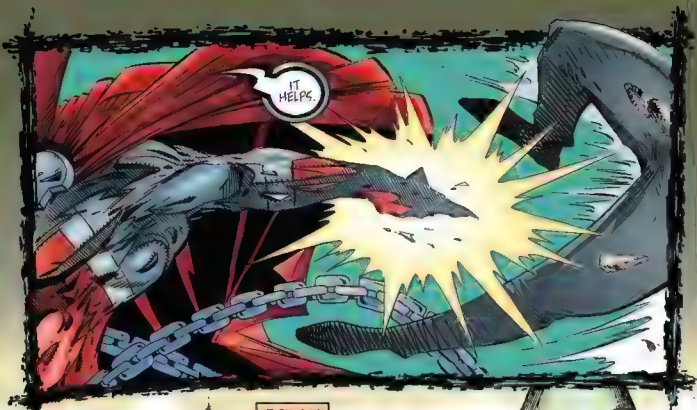












5:23 A.M.

THE SUN'S FIRST LIGHT SKIMS MANHATTAN--DARTING AMONG OFFICE TOWERS, AND OCCASIONALLY TRICKLING TO ALREADY-BUSY STREETS.

IN THE SUITE POSITIONED TO CATCH THE FIRST GLEAM OF THAT LIGHT SITS VITO GRAVANO, AKA VITO GRAVES, AKA DRACULA--Mafia Don and "Madman."

IS THAT SO?

YES, SIR, MR. GRAVANO.

LOOKS LIKE THIS TOWN'S GOT ANOTHER HERO TRYING TO MAKE A NAME FOR HIMSELF.

FINE  
BUT NOT AT MY EXPENSE.

THANKS FOR LAYING OUT THE TRAP, MR. STEWART. I HAVE NO FURTHER USE FOR YOU.

Pardon?

YOU'RE FIRED.

YOU KNOW THE WAY OUT.

# SLAM!

TESTY LITTLE CREEP

ANYWAYS.

I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO A GREAT WEEK, SMITHERS. BRING ME UP TO DATE.

AS YOU KNOW, SIR, WE'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR LINKS BETWEEN THE MURDERS OF YOUR ASSOCIATES AND SOME OTHER DISRUPTIVE SITUATIONS. THE MATTER OF THAT LITTLE FAT CLOWN, THE DISMANTLING OF THAT HIRED GUN *OVERT-KILL*, AND THE VIOLATION OF YOUR OFFICE BY A *COSTUMED VIGILANTE*.

CALLING IN *THE ADMONISHER* TO DEAL WITH THE CLOWN WAS A BRILLIANT MOVE, SIR.\*

I APPRECIATE THAT.

WE'RE HAVING TO DO A LITTLE DIGGING ON THE LATTER TWO INCIDENTS.

SORTING OUT THE CLOWN'S KILLING SPREE HAS BEEN EASIER. THERE'S NO QUESTION HE CARRIED OUT THE HITS ON THE OTHER DONS, AND THAT HE ACTED ALONE.

#VIOLATOR #: 704

CONTINUE

REGARDING THE *OVERT-KILL* SITUATION, WE HAVE SOME NEW LEADS.

OUR PEOPLE AT THE F.B.I. AND C.I.A. BOTH CONFIRM THE THEFT OF THOSE WEAPONS. THE FIREPOWER WAS EASILY SUFFICIENT TO PIERCE *OVERT-KILL*'S ARMOR.

WE HAD DRAWINGS MADE OF THE WEAPONS YOU DESCRIBED, AS USED BY THE *COSTUMED INVADER*.\*

IT TOOK SOME ARM-TWISTING, BUT WE GOT A NAME FOR A SUSPECT. SOMEONE WHO SEEMS TO HAVE STICKY FINGERS FOR CONFIDENTIAL FILES, AS WELL.

HE'S *TERENCE FITZGERALD*, AN OPERATIVE FOR SOME *ULTRA-COVERT* AGENCY.

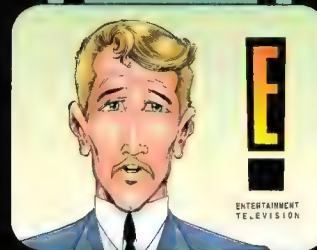
GET ME EVERYTHING YOU CAN ON HIM.



...AN UNEXPECTED NAME IN THE NEWS TODAY IS JASON WYNN, A PREVIOUSLY LITTLE-KNOWN DEPARTMENT HEAD AT THE C.I.A. WYNN RECEIVED A CLEAN BILL OF HEALTH FROM HIS DOCTORS, ACCORDING TO REPORTS RELEASED TODAY, AND HAS ALREADY BEEN BACK AT WORK SINCE MONDAY.

HE UNDERWENT SOME SIXTY PHYSICAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL TESTS AFTER BEING DISCOVERED CRUMPLED ON HIS OFFICE FLOOR THE PREVIOUS FRIDAY. THERE ARE STILL FEW DETAILS REGARDING HIS ABSENCE WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY OF LAST WEEK, THOUGH ABDUCTION BY A HOSTILE AGENCY HAS NOT BEEN RULED OUT.

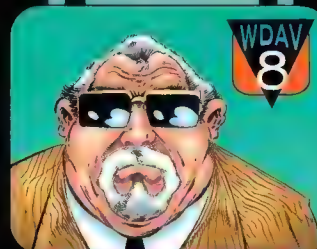
WYNN CLAIMS NO RECOLLECTION OF ANYTHING THAT OCCURRED DURING HIS ABSENCE, ACCORDING TO A WITNESS, THE DIRECTOR WAS SHOWN MYSTICALLY OUT OF A C.I.A. GYMNASIUM. THE DISAPPEARANCE LED TO AN EXHAUSTIVE SEARCH WHICH ENDED WHEN A NIGHT GUARDIAN FOUND HIM. APPARENTLY, WYNN HAD SOMEHOW RETURNED UNDETECTED TO HIS OWN PRIVATE OFFICE ON THE TENTH FLOOR, WHICH WAS LOCKED FROM THE OUTSIDE.



WHAT HAS DOCTORS CONCERNED IS WYNN'S UNEXPLAINABLE PARA-AMNESIA. REPEATED PROCBES AND CAT-SCANS OF THE DIRECTOR'S BRAIN AND CENTRAL NERVOUS SYSTEM HAS REVEALED NO INDICATIONS OF PHYSICAL TRAUMA OR INVASIVE MANIPULATION OF ANY SORT.

A HOSPITAL SPOKESPERSON, SPEAKING ON CONDITION OF ANONYMITY, EMPHASIZED THAT THERE IS NO SIGN OF INJURY WHATSOEVER AND THAT WYNN IS IN TOP PHYSICAL HEALTH. HOWEVER, HE WILL CONTINUE TO BE TESTED OVER THE NEXT SEVERAL WEEKS IN CASE SIMILAR SYMPTOMS ARISE.

WYNN WAS UNAVAILABLE FOR COMMENT, BUT HIS PERSONAL AIDE HAS RELATED THAT MR. WYNN IS BACK TO WORK 'IN FULL FORCE' AND PROCEEDING AS IF THE ENTIRE EVENT NEVER OCCURRED. THE C.I.A., N.S.A. AND N.S.C. ALL HAD NO COMMENT BUT THAT MR. WYNN IS BEING WATCHED CLOSELY FOR ANY SIGNS OF FUTURE ABNORMALITY.



GREAT DAY IN THE MORNING! LET'S GO OVER THE FACTS, IF THE C.I.A. DOESN'T MIND. A MEMBER OF THEIR DIRECTORATE DISAPPEARS, HIS STAR TREK, APPARENTLY OFF THE FACE OF THE EARTH, AND THEN JUST SHOWS UP TWO DAYS LATER, WITH HIS THUMB IN HIS MOUTH, HUDDLED IN A FETAL BALL IN HIS OFFICE. HE REMEMBERS SQUAT, BUT THAT'S OKAY, BECAUSE HE'S ONE OF THE GOOD OL' BOYS. SO, THEY GET HIM TO PEE IN A CUP, A DOZEN TOP-SECURITY DOCTORS WRITE UP A DOZEN UNREADABLE REPORTS, AND THEN SEND HIM BACK TO WORK WITH AN APPLE IN HIS LUNCHBOX. AT THE SAME TIME, THEY CELEBRATE IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN AN ENEMY ACTION AND YET DON'T BLINK AN EYE AT THE POSSIBILITY OUR TOP SECRET BOY SCOUT IS COMPROMISED!

WAS HE KIDNAPPED OR WASN'T HE? PERHAPS HE WAS OFF IN ARUBA WITH MISS MONEY-PENNY--OUR TAX PAINES AT WORK. \* BET IF YOU OR I TRIED THIS CRAP WE'D BE WALKING THE STREETS IN TEN SECONDS FLAT. I KNOW I'LL SLEEP BETTER KNOWING THAT BOYS LIKE THIS ARE IN CHARGE OF OUR NATIONAL SECURITY!





"BLIT THAT DOESN'T MATTER  
THESE G-MEN ARE ALL JUST  
INTERESTED IN PUSHING THEIR  
OWN PERSONAL AGENDAS

"AND I'M NOT  
TALKING ABOUT  
*PUBLIC SERVICE*



"THESE HIGH AND  
MIGHTY GOVERN-  
MENT FACTIONS ALL  
HAVE THEIR LITTLE  
WARS TO FIGHT, AND  
SMALL GUYS LIKE  
YOU AND ME KEEP  
GETTIN' IN THE WAY!"

"WELL, I JUST  
HOPE THERE'S  
SOMEBODY OUT  
THERE WITH  
ENOUGH *GUTS*  
TO STAND UP AND  
FIGHT BACK!"



EVERYBODY PLUS  
*OVER-ALL*



**image**

**22**  
**JUN**

DIGITAL  
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# SPAWN





**image** COMICS PRESENTS:

# "the HUNT"

PART 2



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Special Thanks to  
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Dedicated to:  
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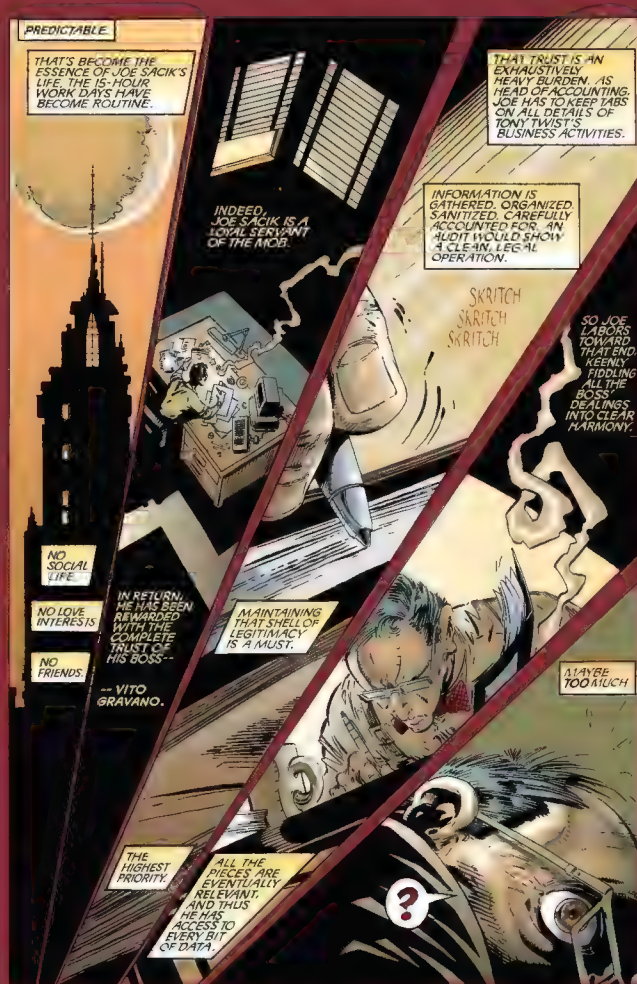


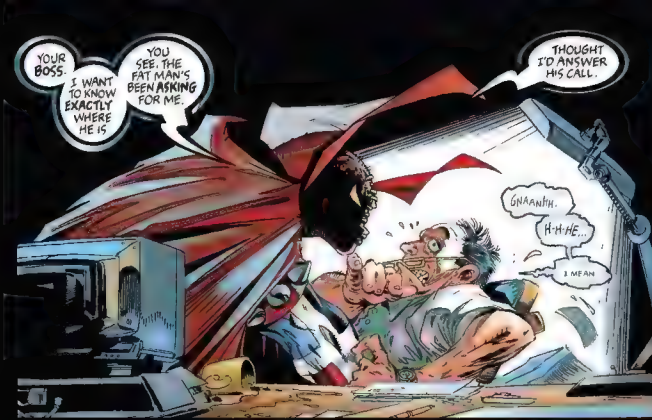
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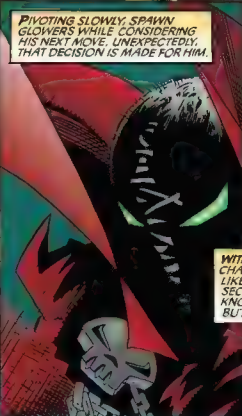
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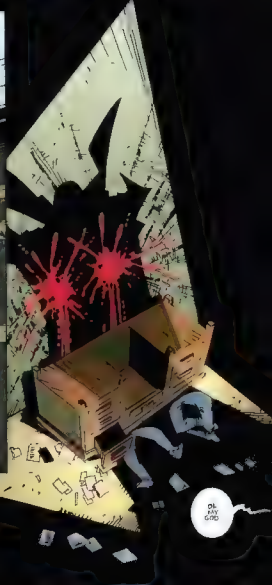
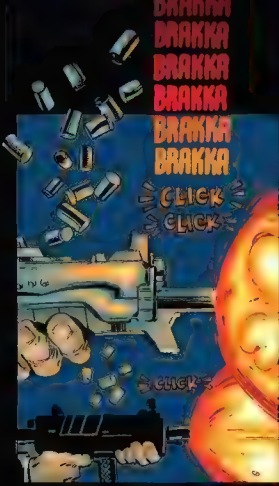
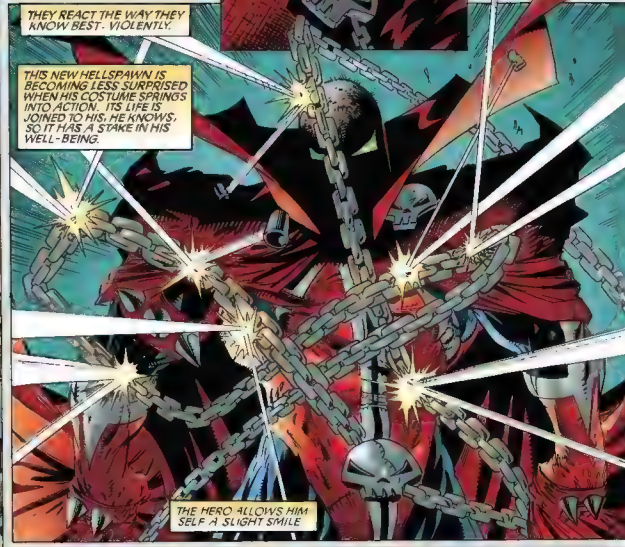




WITHOUT WARNING, HIS CHAINS LUNGE FORWARD LIKE RATTLESNAKES! THE SECURITY GUARDS DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO EXPECT, BUT IT WASN'T THAT.

THEY REACT THE WAY THEY KNOW BEST: VIOLENTLY.

THIS NEW HELLSPAWN IS BECOMING LESS SURPRISED WHEN HIS COSTUME SPRINGS INTO ACTION. ITS LIFE IS JOINED TO HIS. HE KNOWS, SO IT HAS A STAKE IN HIS WELL-BEING.





EXCEPT AT TAX TIME, JOE ISN'T REALLY GOOD AT DEALING WITH PRESSURE. HE KNOWS THERE'S NO TIME TO HIDE THE SENSITIVE FILES EVEN AS HE GRABS THEM, BUT CAN'T STOP HIMSELF.



HERE YOU GO!



THE PAIR STANDS IN SILENCE, JOE REPLAYING THE LAST SIXTY SECONDS IN HIS MIND. HE GATHERS, ORGANIZES AND QUICKLY FORMATS THE INFORMATION.

HE MELTS INTO A DARKENED CORNER. SECURITY PERSONNEL CAN FIND NO TRACE OF HIS VISIT.

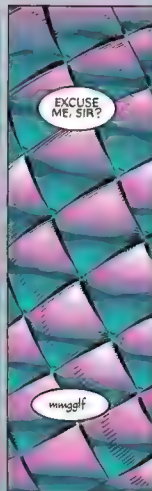
AS FOR JOE SAKIC, THREE DAYS FROM NOW, HIS BODY WILL BE FOUND UNDER THE GEORGE WASHINGTON BRIDGE WITH HIS HANDS AND FEET VICIOUSLY SEVERED, DECAPITATED, EVEN HIS GENITALS WILL BE MISSING.

THE POLICE WILL CONDUCT A FULL INVESTIGATION, BUT IN THE ABSENCE OF ANYTHING IDENTIFIABLE ABOUT THE BODY, WILL HAVE TO CLOSE THE CASE OF JOHN DOE 1994-714.

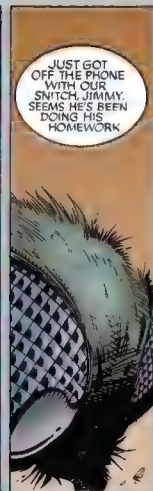
SUCH IS THE LIFE OF A TRUSTED EMPLOYEE OF VITO GRAVANO.



EXCUSE ME, SIR?



ummm



JUST GOT OFF THE PHONE WITH OUR SNITCH, JIMMY. SEEMS HE'S BEEN DOING HIS HOMEWORK.



ONE OF THE BUMS HE KNOWS SAYS OUR HERO USUALLY HANGS OUT IN THE SAME FOUR BLOCK RADIUS.

I'VE MAPPED IT OUT ALREADY, SIR.

MISSION - THE BOMB ...



I'LL DO SOME EARLY SCOUTING AND ASK A FEW QUESTIONS.



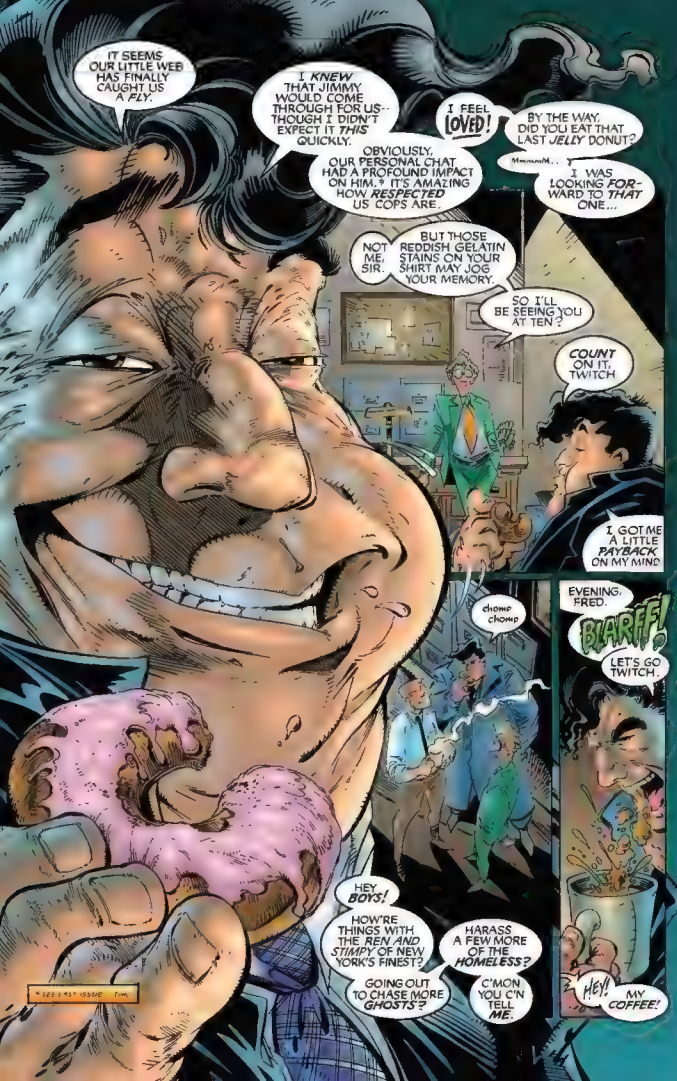
MEET YOU AT PORT AUTHORITY AT 10 O'CLOCK.

OKAY, SIR?



SIR!





IT SEEMS  
OUR LITTLE WEB  
HAS FINALLY  
CAUGHT US  
A FLY.

I KNEW  
THAT JIMMY  
WOULD COME  
THROUGH FOR US...  
THOUGH I DIDN'T  
EXPECT IT THIS  
QUICKLY.

OBTUSELY:  
OUR PERSONAL CHAT  
HAD A PROFOUND IMPACT  
ON HIM. \* IT'S AMAZING  
HOW RESPECTED  
US GOF'S ARE.

BUT THOSE  
REDDISH GELATIN  
STAINS ON YOUR  
SHIRT MAY JOG  
YOUR MEMORY.

I FEEL  
**LOVED!**

BY THE WAY,  
DID YOU EAT THAT  
LAST JELLY DONUT?

Mmmmm...

I WAS  
LOOKING FOR-  
WARD TO THAT  
ONE...

SO I'LL  
BE SEEING YOU  
AT TEN?

COUNT  
ON IT,  
TWITCH.

I GOT ME  
A LITTLE  
PAYBACK  
ON MY MIND.

EVENING,  
FRED.

**BLARF!**

LET'S GO  
TWITCH.

chomp  
chomp

HEY  
BOYS!

HOW'RE  
THINGS WITH  
THE REN AND  
STIMPY OF NEW  
YORK'S FINEST?

HARASS  
A FEW MORE  
OF THE  
HOMELESS?

GOING OUT  
TO CHASE MORE  
GHOSTS?

C'MON  
YOU C'N  
TELL  
ME.

HEY!  
MY COFFEE!

ANOTHER DAWN BREAKS OVER NEW YORK CITY. ONLY A FEW SPRINKLES OF SUNSHINE ARE IN THE TIGHTLY-DRAWN BLINDS OF THESE C.I.A. OFFICE WINDOWS. IT'S AS IF THE STRUCTURE ITSELF RESISTS THE REVEALING LIGHT OF DAY.

THE REPORTERS WHO COVER SECURITY ISSUES WOULD ENVY THOSE STRAY SUNBEAMS. THEY'VE LATELY HAD THEIR VERY POINTED QUESTIONS MET WITH CLEVERLY-BRIEF EVASIVE ANSWERS. THE COMPLETE TRUTH HAS BEEN LOCKED TIGHTLY AWAY. ALL ATTEMPTS TO SHED LIGHT ON ONE PARTICULAR NEW EMBARRASSMENT FOR THE AGENCY ARE POLITELY DIVERTED AND FIRMLY RESISTED.

THOSE GUMMERS OF THE RISING SUN CAST PAINT, GLUD, BERTIE, EVOLVING SHADOWS OVER THIS ORGANIZATION'S DIRECTOR. HE SITS ALONE AGAIN IN THE EXECUTIVE SUITE... PONDERING... CALCULATING.

HIS NAME IS JASON WYNN.

WHEN NOTICED AT ALL BY THE LARGER WORLD, HE IS REFERRED TO AS A MINOR DEPARTMENT HEAD IN CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE. IN CIRCLES THAT TRULY MATTER, THOUGH, WYNN'S ULTIMATELY ANTI-OPERATION DWARF EVEN THAT OF THE LATE J. EDGAR HOOVER. HE DIRECTS THE ULTIMATE SECRET UNITED STATES SECURITY GROUP, THE NATION'S HIGHEST-LEVEL TASK FORCE, WITH JURISDICTION IN ALL SITUATIONS, DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN. ONLY THE PRESIDENT, HIS CABINET, AND THE SENATE COMMITTEES OF STAFF ARE PRIVY TO HIS FINDINGS-- STRICTLY ON A "NEED TO KNOW" BASIS.

HOWEVER, RECENT EVENTS HAVE CAST DOUBT ON HIS CREDIBILITY. WYNN IS UNABLE TO EXPLAIN HIS TWO-DAY DISAPPEARANCE. \* SOMEONE HAS LEAKED THE ODD GLEANINGS TO THE MEDIA. \* ALREADY, ENEMIES THROUGHOUT THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY HAVE BEGUN CIRCULATING LOOKING FOR A WEAKNESS TO EXPLOIT. THE WHITE HOUSE IS UNHAPPY WITH HIS INABILITY TO ACCOUNT FOR THOSE TWO DAYS, AND IS ANNOYED TO BE REMINDING HIS STAFF IT IS THEIR DUTY TO KEEP THE INTEREST OF THE PRESS IN THIS NEW-FOUND SCANDAL HAS. HIS ENEMIES SUGGEST, COMPROMISED THE MOTIVES BEHIND ANY OF HIS CURRENT INVESTIGATIONS.

ONE OTHER SERIES OF INCIDENTS, IN WYNN'S OWN BACKYARD, IS POTENTIALLY VERY UGLY. TO WIT: A SECURITY BREACH AT A NEGLECTED UPSTATE ARMOY. MISSING ORDINANCE FROM SAME CLOSER TO HOME, STOLEN PERSONNEL FILES. ONE SUSPECT HAS BEEN TARGETED: "TERRANCE" "TERRY" FITZGERALD. A CLOSE FRIEND OF AN AGENT. AT WYNN'S SECRETLY TERMINATED AT WYNN'S BEHEST.

A THOROUGH INVESTIGATION HAS PROVEN THAT FITZGERALD IS CLEAN. UNFORTUNATELY, JASON WYNN CANNOT AFFORD EVEN THE LITTLEST OF PROFESSIONAL INADEQUACY. THEREFORE, THE FITZGERALD INQUIRY WILL CONTINUE. HIS GUILT IS PREDETERMINED. WYNN WILL NOT FALL.

REPUTATION. POWER.

THESE ARE THE BUILDING BLOCKS OF MADNESS.



WYNN WAS ASSAULTED BY AGENTS OF MADNESS AND MADE A DASH FOR THE CAUSE SET. WYNN & TO G.





DEEP WITHIN THE BOWELS OF MANHATTAN'S  
BACK STREETS, AL SIMMONS, THE HELL-  
SPAWN, SITS ON A THRONE OF WASTE AND  
DEBRIS. IT WAS ASSEMBLED BY THE HOME-  
LESS NOW UNDER HIS PROTECTION. HIS  
FIRST INSTINCT WAS TO SCOFF AT THEIR  
HANDIWORK, BUT WHAT ELSE COULD THEY  
HAVE BUILT TO SUPPORT HIS KNO-BOWED  
MISSE? GRACIOUSLY, HE ACCEPTED THEIR  
GIFT, WHICH FORMALIZED HIS ROLE AS THE  
BOHEMY'S DARK PROTECTION...

...AND THEIRS.  
AS HIS PEOPLE.

THEY NEED HIM  
TO PLAY THE PART.

TO BE THEIR  
SAVOR, THEIR  
NEW-FOUND GOD.

HE'S GRATEFUL-- IF A BIT UN-  
COMFORTABLE-- FOR THEIR  
DEVOTION. YET IT'S THE FAMILY  
AND FRIENDS FROM HIS  
PREVIOUS, HUMAN LIFE, WHO  
FILL HIS THOUGHTS. NOW  
BACK FROM THE DEAD, HE HAS  
AN UNHOLY MISSION. TO HIS  
DISMAY, HE FINDS THIS IS  
HAVING DIRE REPERCUSSIONS  
AMONG THOSE HE LEFT  
BEHIND.

001  
NO.

VITO  
TERRY.  
I'M  
TERRY.

AND AS REQUESTED, MR. GRAVANO,  
AN ADDITIONAL CONTROL CIRCUIT HAS  
BEEN INSTALLED. IT WILL OVERRIDE  
ANY HOWLING SIGNALS SENT  
OUT BY OUR OPPONENTS.

GOOD

ADDITIONAL MODIFICA-  
TIONS WERE MADE TO  
HIS BARRELLUM ARMOR.  
WHILE COMBAT DAMAGE  
TO HIS EXO-SKELETON IS  
ALWAYS POSSIBLE, THIS  
WILL KEEP  
MINIMAL.

THE SAME  
ASSAULTS USED  
IN THE PAST WOULD  
NOW BE RATHER  
USELESS.

EXCELLENT!

I KNEW I  
COULD COUNT  
ON YOU AND  
YOUR BOYS.

UH...

THERE IS  
ONE SLIGHT  
PROBLEM,  
SIR.

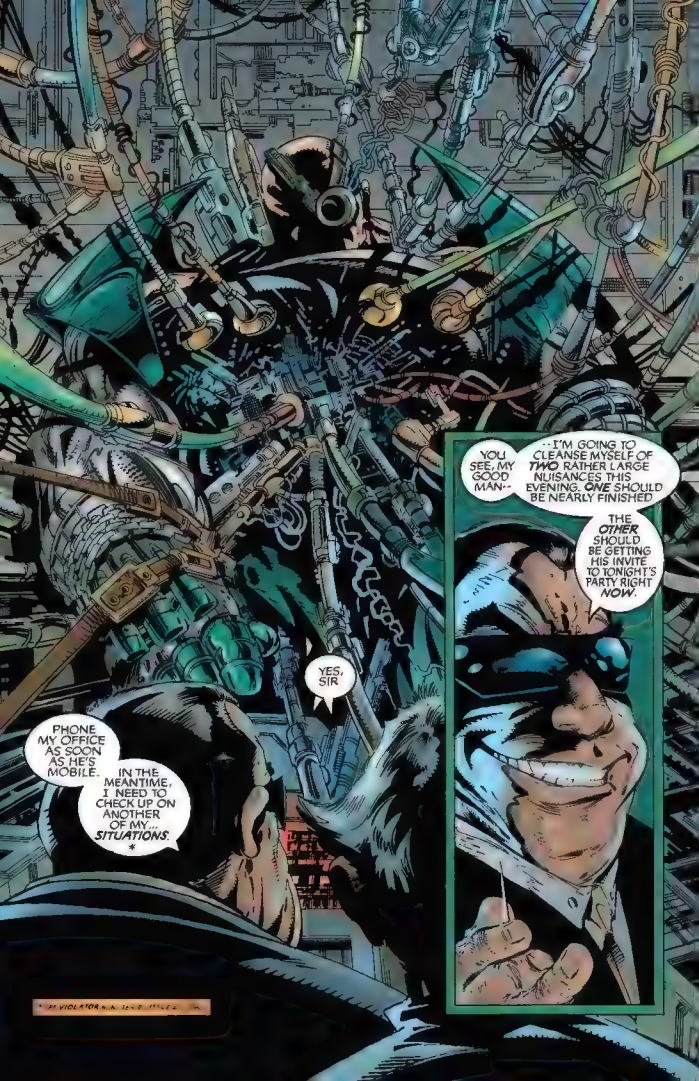
THAT  
BEING?

IT SEEMS WE WEREN'T  
ABLE TO COMPLETELY WIPE  
SOME OF HIS MEMORIES.  
THERE ARE A FEW IMPULSE-  
WAVES THAT INCLUDE DATA ON  
THE GOVERNMENT'S YOUNG-  
BLOOD TEAM THAT  
IGNORED OUR 'DELETE'  
COMMANDS.

I'M NOT  
CONCERNED  
ABOUT HIS  
MEMORY. I  
NEED HIM READY  
TO GO TONIGHT!  
WE'VE HAD  
ANOTHER VISIT  
TO MY OFFICE BY  
THAT COSTUMED  
FREAK. I WANT  
OVERT-KILL OPERA-  
TIONAL A.S.A.P.!

DO I MAKE  
MYSELF  
CLEAR?

TONIGHT.



PHONE MY OFFICE AS SOON AS HE'S MOBILE.

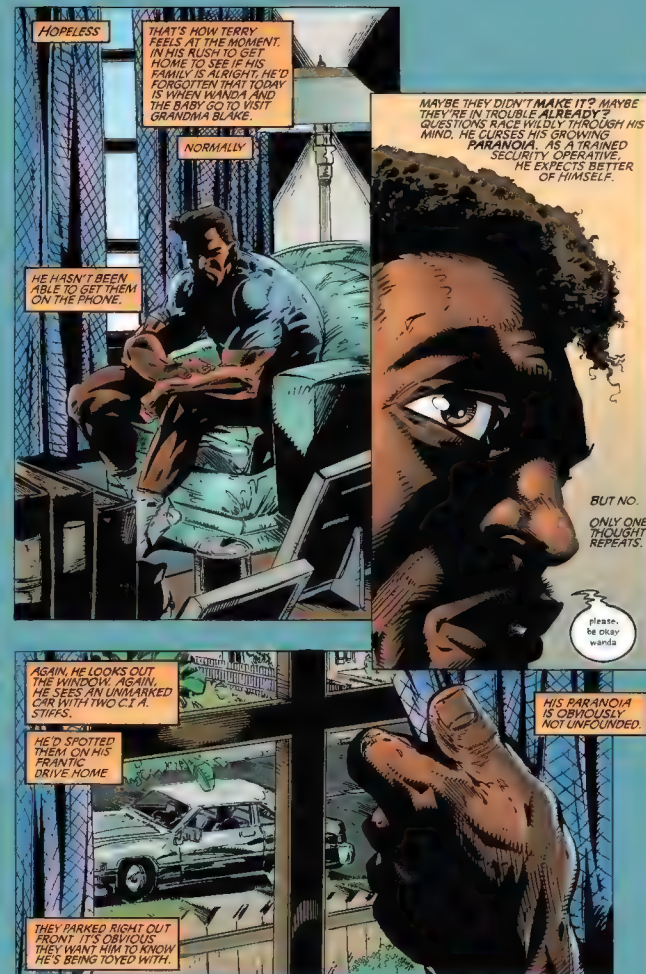
IN THE MEANTIME, I NEED TO CHECK UP ON ANOTHER OF MY SITUATIONS.

YES, SIR.

YOU SEE, MY GOOD MAN--

--I'M GOING TO CLEANSE MYSELF OF TWO RATHER LARGE NUISANCES THIS EVENING. ONE SHOULD BE NEARLY FINISHED

THE OTHER SHOULD BE GETTING HIS INVITE TO TONIGHT'S PARTY RIGHT NOW.



HOPELESS

THAT'S HOW TERRY FEELS AT THE MOMENT. IN HIS RUSH TO GET HOME TO SEE IF HIS FAMILY IS ALRIGHT, HE'D FORGOTTEN THAT TODAY IS WHEN WANDA AND THE BABY GO TO VISIT GRANDMA BLAKE.

NORMALLY

HE HASN'T BEEN ABLE TO GET THEM ON THE PHONE.

MAYBE THEY DIDN'T MAKE IT? MAYBE THEY'RE IN TROUBLE ALREADY? QUESTIONS RACE WILDLY THROUGH HIS MIND. HE CURSES HIS GROWING PARANOIA. AS A TRAINED SECURITY OPERATIVE, HE EXPECTS BETTER OF HIMSELF.

BUT NO. ONLY ONE THOUGHT REPEATS.

please, he pray wanda

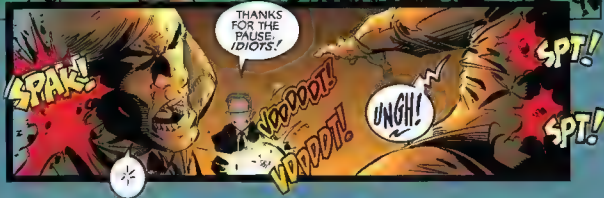
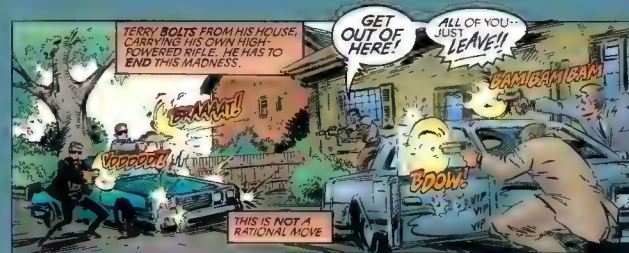
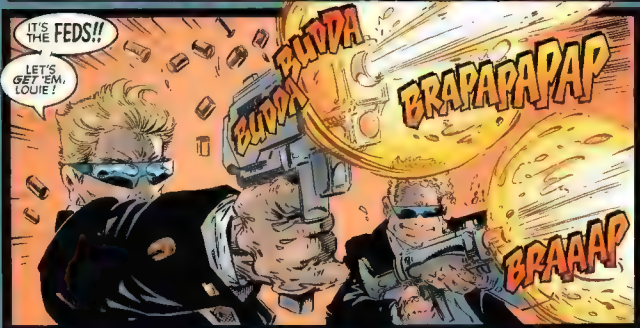
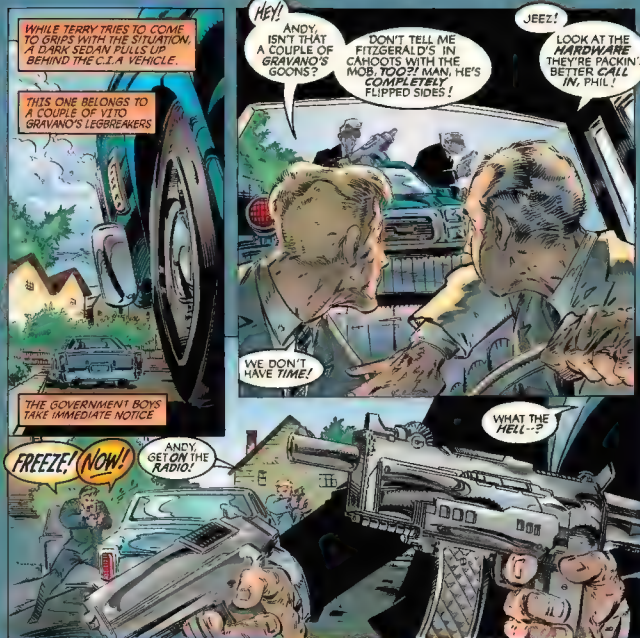
AGAIN, HE LOOKS OUT THE WINDOW. AGAIN, HE SEES AN UNMARKED CAR WITH TWO C.I.A. STIFFS.

HE'D SPOTTED THEM ON HIS FRANTIC DRIVE HOME.

THEY PARKED RIGHT OUT FRONT. IT'S OBVIOUS. THEY WANT HIM TO KNOW HE'S BEING TOYED WITH.

HIS PARANOIA IS OBVIOUSLY NOT UNFOUNDED.







FINALLY, THE GUNS FALL SILENT

LISTEN UP,  
FITZGERALD!!  
I KNOW YOU  
CAN HEAR US!

WE'VE  
GOT YOUR WIFE  
AND GIRL! IF  
YOU WANT TO SEE  
EITHER OF THEM  
AGAIN, YOU BE  
IN THE ALLEY  
BETWEEN FIFTH  
AND SIXTH AT  
27th--

--AT  
MIDNIGHT!

AND YOU'D  
BETTER BE  
ALONE!

IT'S AT THIS MOMENT THAT TERRY'S  
WORLD BECOMES DEVOID OF REALITY.  
HE ISN'T AWARE THAT THE MAFIA  
WISEGUYS WERE LYING. WANDA, CYAN  
AND GRANDMA BLAKE WERE ACTUALLY  
AT A PARK, QUIETLY OBSERVED BY  
SOME OF GRAVINO'S MEN. THEY CALLED  
THIS INFORMATION IN TO THE THUGS  
AT TERRY'S DOORSTEP, WHO WERE THEN  
TO PASS HIM THE ROGUS' KIDNAP STORY.

OF COURSE, TERRY WOULD IMMEDIATELY  
CHECK ON GRANDMA'S HOUSE.

OF COURSE, IT'D BE EMPTY.

THIS WOULD MAKE THE  
BLUFF THAT MUCH  
MORE CONVINCING.

WHAT THE MOBSTERS HADN'T  
FORSEEN WAS THE PRESENCE  
OF THE C.I.A.

THIS COMPLICATION  
WAS EASILY RESOLVED.

NOW, TERRY STANDS OVER THE  
TWO DEAD WOMEN. THE SECURITY  
AGENCIES HAD NOTHING BUT  
WYNN'S LIES TO FOLLOW UNTIL  
NOW. IN WAY THEY'LL BELIEVE  
A COUPLE OF HITMEN HAPPENED  
ALONG AND HAD A SHOOT-OUT  
ON HIS FRONT LAWN.

AS THE SOUND OF SIRENS  
DRAWS CLOSER, AND THE  
NEIGHBORS START TO PEER  
THROUGH THEIR CURTAINS,  
TERRY DOES THE ONLY  
THING HE CAN THINK OF.

HE RUNS.

HOURS LATER

ALL!

HEY, AL!

WIFE!

HE'S COMING!  
JUST LIKE YOU SAID  
OVER ON SIXTH!

THEN THE  
FILES WERE  
CORRECT

THE DOCUMENTS  
PROCURED BY SPANNA  
FROM VITO GRAVINO'S  
OFFICE HAD MENTIONED  
OVERT-KILL'S MIDNIGHT  
APPOINTMENT...

YOU'D BETTER  
HURRY, MAN, 'CAUSE  
SOME BLACK DUDE  
IN A SUIT IS RIGHT  
IN HIS SIGHTS.

TERRY?!

THANKS  
FOR THE  
WARNING.

I DON'T  
KNOW  
WHO HE IS,  
BUT THAT  
ROBOT'S  
AS BIG AS  
A BUS!

HE DON'T  
STAND A  
CHANCE

WHATEVER  
YOU'RE GOING  
TO DO--  
STAY AND BE  
CAREFUL.

THIS IS  
SERIOUS

I'VE GOT  
A LITTLE  
HELP  
TUCKED  
AWAY.

TIRES SCREECH  
AS THE CAR  
SPEEDS AWAY.







TIME.  
ONCE AGAIN IT BECOMES AN ENERGY TO SPRAIN...







**Image**

**23**  
**AUG**

DIGITAL  
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**image** COMICS PRESENTS:

# "the HUNT"

PART 3



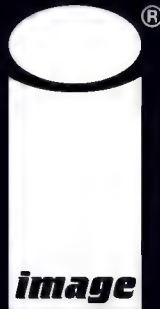
story & art  
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special thanks to  
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copy editor & letters  
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and **OLYOPTICS**

Dedicated to:  
**DON THOMPSON**



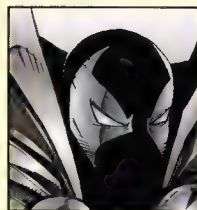
FOR IMAGE COMICS  
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Director Of Creative Development: TERRY FITZGERALD.  
Graphics Coordinator: JULIA SIMMONS.



**JASON WYNN:** HEAD OF THE UNITED STATES SECURITY GROUP, THE HIGHEST-LEVEL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY. HIS SECURITY STATUS HAS BEEN COMPROMISED, AND THE PRESIDENT'S OFFICE IS NOT PLEASED. WYNN IS UNDER PRESSURE TO RESTORE HIS REPUTATION IN THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY. TERRY FITZGERALD, A VICTIM OF CIRCUMSTANCE, HAS BEEN IDENTIFIED AS THE SOURCE OF THE TENSION... AND IS NOW IN DANGER OF HIS LIFE. AT WYNN'S DIRECTION.



**SPAWN:** AGENT OF HELL. HIS VERY EXISTENCE HAS SET INTO MOTION A CRAZY RIPPLE EFFECT, WITH INCREASINGLY DANGEROUS CONSEQUENCES FOR THOSE AROUND HIM. SPAWN SIMPLY WANTS TO CREATE AND NURTURE A FAMILY, BUT THAT DESIRE HAS ALREADY DAMNED HIM AND NOW INADVERTENTLY THREATENS ALL WHO TRUST HIM.



**VITO GRAVANO:** MAFIA DON. HIS OPERATIONS HAD RUN SMOOTHLY FOR YEARS, BUT LATELY AN UNKNOWN ATTACKER HAS SLAUGHTERED A NUMBER OF HIS MEN. GRAVANO HAS FOCUSED ON REMOVING THIS BLEMISH... SPAWN, HE BELIEVES... FROM THE FACE OF HIS CITY. HE IS UNAWARE THAT SOME OF THE INFORMATION DRIVING HIS HUNT IS INACCURATE.



**WANDA BLAKE:** WIDOW OF LT. COL. AL SIMMONS, A.K.A. SPAWN.

WANDA IS NOW HAPPILY MARRIED TO HER LATE HUSBAND'S BEST FRIEND, TERRY FITZGERALD, WITH WHOM SHE HAS A DAUGHTER, CYAN. SHE IS CURRENTLY UNAWARE OF AL'S LIFE STATUS, OR OF THE VICIOUS WEB IN WHICH TERRY IS RAPIDLY FINDING HIMSELF ENSNARED.



**SAM BURKE:** DETECTIVE, N.Y.P.D.

NOW CLEARED OF WRONGDOING IN THE DEATH OF CHILD KILLER BILLY KINCAID, BURKE IS ALLOWING HIMSELF THE LUXURY OF BRUTALITY IN THE NAME OF FACT GATHERING. SOMEONE (OR SOMETHING) CAUSED HIS SUPERIORS TO QUESTION HIS LOYALTY, AND HE WANTS TO HAVE WORDS WITH THIS INDIVIDUAL.



**"TWITCH" WILLIAMS:** DETECTIVE, N.Y.P.D.

THIS FATHER OF SEVEN IS ONE OF THE STATE'S TOP SHARPSHOOTERS. HIS SENSE OF FAIRNESS WORKS COUNTERPOINT TO HIS PARTNER BURKE'S OCCASIONAL LAPSES. METHODOLOGY AND ARM-TWISTING HAVE LED THE PAIR TO THEIR QUARRY - THE COSTUMED MYSTERY MAN WHO HAS A FEW SERIOUS QUESTIONS TO ANSWER.

THESE ARE THE MAJOR PLAYERS IN AN INCREASINGLY TWISTED GAME OF CAT AND MOUSE. EACH IS SOMEHOW CONNECTED TO THE STRANGE EXISTENCE OF A DEAD MAN BROUGHT BACK TO LIFE. STRIPPED OF HIS IDENTITY... CHARGED WITH TREMENDOUS BUT EXHAUSTIBLE POWER... AWAKENED FIVE YEARS AFTER HIS TIME TO FIND HIS WIFE REMARRIED... THESE WERE THE REALITIES AWAITING A MAN IN LOVE...  
-- GIFTS GIVEN BY SOME UNHOLY CREATURE OF HELL.

A PRISONER OF HIS NEW LIFE ON EARTH, SPAWN'S ACTIONS HAVE TRIGGERED SEVERAL MANHUNTS BY VERY INFLUENTIAL PEOPLE. NONE IS PREPARED FOR WHAT TRUTH MAY EMERGE FROM THEIR INVESTIGATIONS...





AND THE UNFOLDING  
TRAGEDY IS THAT AN  
INNOCENT MAN IS  
THE PRIME SUSPECT

THIS BRINGS US TO  
TERRY FITZGERALD

THROUGH STRAINED  
CIRCUMSTANCES, HE  
HAS BECOME THE TARGET  
OF NUMEROUS GROUPS

CIA

POLICE

F.B.I.

MAFIA

ALL HAVE DETERMINED  
THAT HE IS AT THE  
ROOT OF THEIR PROBLEMS

PLEASE  
I DEED YOU

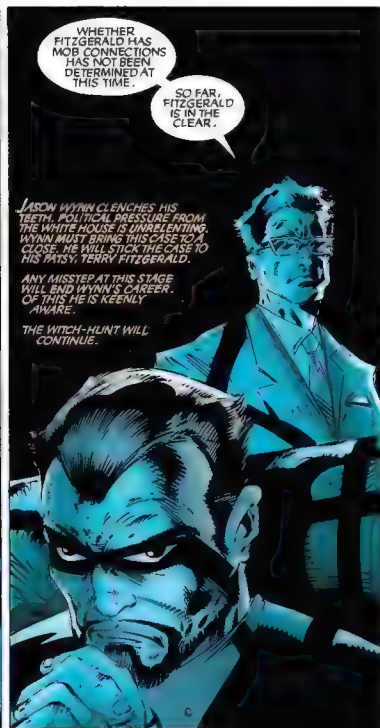
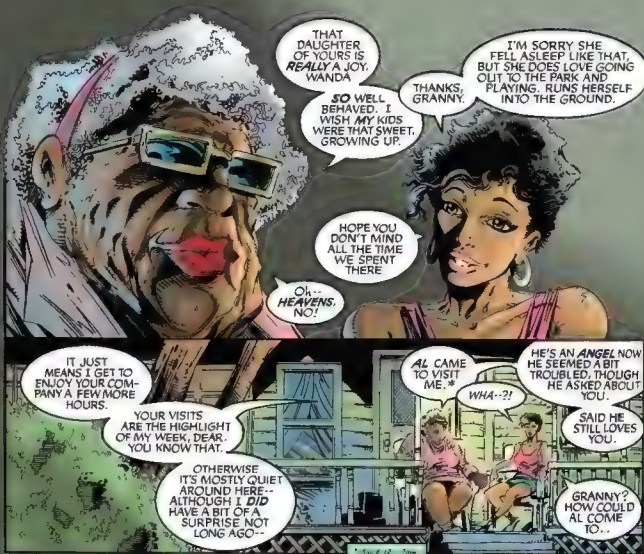
EACH HAS ITS OWN SPECIAL WAY OF  
DEALING WITH SUCH ANNOYANCES













ACROSS TOWN...

WHAT WERE YOU THINKING ?!!

BOSS... WE HAD NO IDEA THAT THE FEEDS WOULD BE...



THE CARTEL'S ALREADY BUSTING MY BALLS!

PLEASE STOP



I'VE GOT ENOUGH PROBLEMS ALREADY. \* YOU GO BACK OUT THERE AND MAKE THIS GO AWAY AND I DON'T MEAN A LITTLE BIT, I MEAN ALL OF IT!

CAPICE?

YES, SIR...

GOOD...

\*VIOLATOR  
MINI-TECH  
ISSUE 3



KAK!

HE WAS



FINE

HAVE IT YOUR WAY, HERO. YOU DON'T WANT TO FIGHT...?



THEN I HOPE YOU WON'T MIND IF I JUST CARRY ON IN SPITE OF YOU--

--LIKE SEEING HOW FINE POWDER I CAN CRUSH FROM YOUR BONES--

--WITHOUT SPLITTING YOUR BODY OPEN!



UNGH!

FROM DENSE  
SHADOWS COMES A  
CRIMSON BLUR

ITS MOVEMENTS  
ARE QUICK,  
DELIBERATE

ANCHORING WITH  
SPECIFIC INTENT,  
IT SNATCHES  
TERRY'S  
BATTERED BODY

AND TOUCHES  
DOWN 20 FEET  
AWAY, KNEE DEEP  
IN GARBAGE

HEY!



STAY  
HERE

I'LL  
HANDLE  
THIS

GOTTA  
SAVE  
'EM...

FOOL!

2 cough 2  
NO.



YOU'RE  
A DEAD  
MAN.

INTERNAL BLEEDING,  
CRACKED RIBS, FRACTURED  
JAW. NONE OF THESE MATTER  
TO TERRY AS HE SPRINTS FOR  
THE STREETS. HE STILL  
BELIEVES THE MAFIA HAVE  
HIS WIFE AND CHILD.

THEIR BLUFF HAD WORKED



HA HA HA HA HA

YET FOR ALL HIS  
EFFORT, TERRY  
IS ONLY HUMAN--  
NOT NEARLY  
FAST ENOUGH  
TO OUTRUN A  
BIO-LASER  
STREAM.

TERRY.

NO!



BEFORE SPAWN CAN MOVE, HIS CAPE DOES TO THIS POINT, HIS COSTUME HAD ONLY COME TO LIFE WHILE PROTECTING ITS HOST.

TONIGHT, IT SENSED A FURTHER USE

SPAWN GRABS A STRAY TWO-BY-FOUR. HE KNOWS IT CAN CAUSE NO DAMAGE... BUT IT CAN OFFER A SLIGHT DISTRACTION...

...ONE THAT WILL ALLOW TERRY TO ESCAPE.

POW!  
POW!

CRIPES!

WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?!

I DON'T KNOW, SIR--

POW!  
POW!  
SMET!

SWAK!

FINALLY! MY PROPER TARGET, WITH-OUT YOUR GUN...

YOU'RE NOTHING!

ZAT!

"BUT OBVIOUSLY HE WASN'T LYING TO US."

"CRAP!"

THAT MEANS THE REST OF HIS STORY'S PROBABLY TRUE. TWITCH

BECAUSE UNLESS WE TERMINATE THIS BATTLE, WE'RE NOT GOING TO GET ANY ANSWERS FROM THIS "AL" GUY!

CAR'S TOO FAR AWAY FOR US TO RADIO IN. SO--WE'VE ONLY GOT ONE CHOICE--

SHOOT!

"WHICH MEANS THERE JUST MAY BE A MULTI-AGENCY MAMMOTH GOING ON."

"JUST MY LUCK."

ZAT!

"SIR?"

"YEAH! YEAH! I'M THINKING!"

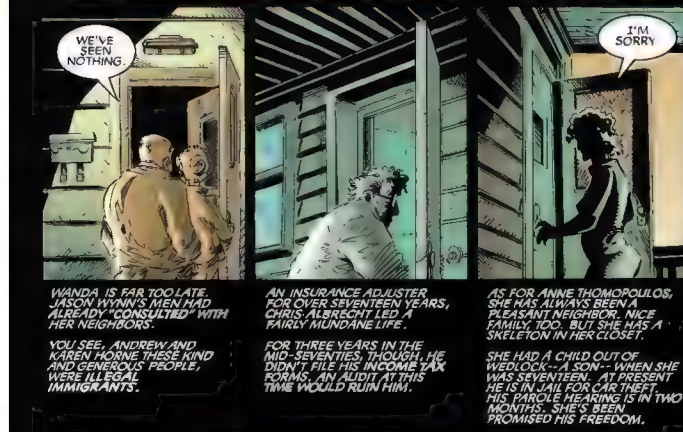
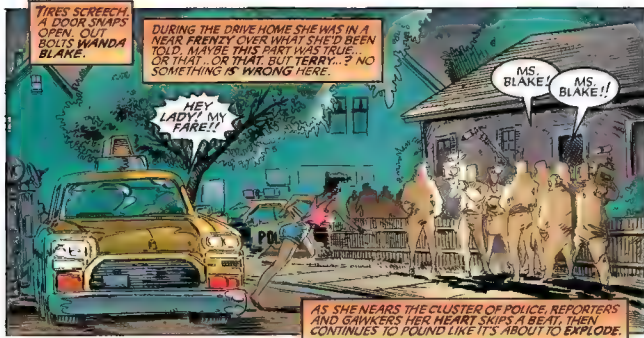
"WE CAN'T AFFORD THAT MUCH TIME"

PING

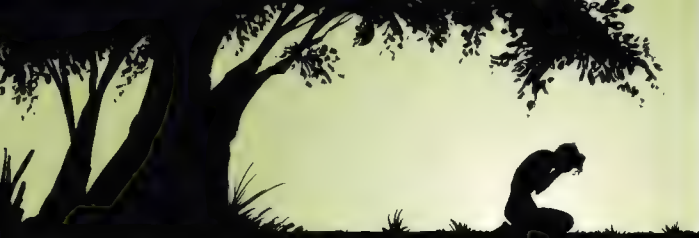
PING

TIME TO POP THAT ZIT YOU CALL A HEAD









AS THE FINAL DOOR IS LATCHED,  
SHE FALLS TO HER KNEES,  
SOBBING.

WANDA NEVER WANTED TO ADMIT IT TO HERSELF, BUT SHE ALWAYS KNEW THIS DAY WOULD COME... BEING A WIDOW TO ONE GOVERNMENT INTELLIGENCE AGENT WASN'T ENOUGH, SHE HAD TO GO MARRY ANOTHER. SHE'D ACTED AS IF, BY KEEPING A FEET DISTANCE FROM THEIR WORK, SHE WOULD SHIELD THEM ALL FROM ANY CONSEQUENCES OF... WELL, WHATEVER THAT WORK WAS. "IGNORANCE IS BLISS," SHE'D TOLD HERSELF.

THAT ILLUSION HAS JUST BEEN SHATTERED... TERMINALLY. WANDA KNOWS SHE'D YE SEEN WARNING LIGHTS FLASHING IF ONLY SHE'D OPENED HER EYES A BIT WIDER.

SHE SAYS A QUICK  
PRAYER FOR HER CHILD,  
WHO'S BEEN LEFT...  
THANK GOD...  
AT GRANNY BLAKE'S.

THEN, SHE BREAKS DOWN AGAIN,  
HER BODY JERKING WITH EACH BREATH.

TRAGICALLY, HER PRIVACY IS  
SHORT-LIVED AS THE ASSEMBLED  
NEPHEW-DARVS BOUNCE,  
FEEDING ON HER GRIEF.



MEANWHILE...

NO, I CAN'T  
JUST LEAVE  
HIM.

HE  
SAVED  
UNSUB'S  
MY  
LIFE!

WAVES OF PAIN SHOOTING THROUGH  
HIS BODY, TERRY MANAGES TO PUSH AN  
EMPTY DUMPSTER DOWN THE ALLEY.

HE WON'T ABANDON  
THE COSTUMED  
WILDLIFE.

WITH EACH  
AGONIZING  
STEP  
MOMENTUM  
IS BUILT--



...JUST ENOUGH TO  
TOPPLE A 1200-LB.  
CYBORG THAT  
WAS ALREADY  
OFF-BALANCE.

WHA-?!

WHAK!

UNEEK!

IDIOT!

I THOUGHT  
YOU'D FLED!

WERE YOU  
WAITING FOR  
YOUR FRIEND?  
HERE HE IS!

WHAT'RE  
YA DOIN',  
TWITCH?  
YOUR GUN'S  
USELESS!

I'VE  
GOT AN  
IDEA,  
SIR







CONCLUDED  
NEXT ISSUE





**image**

**24**  
SEP

DIGITAL  
EDITION

# SPAWN



MY-ARLANE  
0.1.1



**image** COMICS PRESENTS:

# "the HUNT"

PART 4



story & art  
**TODD McFARLANE**

special thanks to  
**GREG CAPULLO**

copy editor & letters  
**TOM ORZECOWSKI**

color  
**STEVE OLIFF**  
and **OLYOPTICS**

Dedicated to:  
**JOE SINNOT**

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Director Of Creative Development: **TERRY FITZGERALD.**  
Graphics Coordinator: **JULIA SIMMONS.**

**image**

IT'S BEEN A VERY STRANGE NIGHT FOR DETECTIVE SAM BURKE, WHILE HUNTING THE MYSTERIOUS COSTUMED VAGABOND RESPONSIBLE FOR BURKE'S TEMPORARY SUSPENSION FROM THE POLICE FORCE, BURKE AND HIS PARTNER-- TWITCHY WILLIAMS-- UNEXPECTEDLY FOUND THEMSELVES IN THE MIDDLE OF A MUCH BIGGER SCENARIO.

VARIOUS SOURCES LED THEM TO THE LAIR OF A HERO, REVERED BY THE HOMELESS OF NEW YORK'S DOWNTOWN. THEY CAUGHT HIM OFF-GUARD AS HE PREPARED FOR A SHOWDOWN TWO MILES UPTOWN WITH THE MARLA'S CYBORG HITMAN, OVERTHILL. SPAWN EVADED THE PURSUIT.

THE LAWYER LATER CAUGHT UP WITH SPAWN AS HIS BATTLE REACHED ITS CLIMAX. WILLIAMS' SHARPSHOOTING SAID SPAWN'S LIFE-- AND THAT OF ONE OTHER, ALSO LYING IN A BLOODY HEAP WAS AN UNIDENTIFIED CIVILIAN.

AS BURKE STARES DOWN AT THE TWO BROKEN FIGURES, HE MUTTERS HIS PAPER-SIGNAL ASSESSMENT:

**CRIPES!**

THE PAPERWORK ON THIS IS GONNA KILL ME.

SO IT WOULD SEEM, SIR.

IT'S OBVIOUS THAT HE'S NOT EVEN REMOTELY AWARE OF THE MAGNITUDE OF WHAT'S JUST HAPPENED.

HE'LL CATCH ON SOON ENOUGH.







BOYS, WE JUST GOT LUCKY.

A COUPLE DETECTIVES FROM DOWNTOWN SAY THEY'VE GOT THAT FITZGERALD GUY, AND THEY DON'T SEEM TO KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT HIM MURDERING THOSE FEDS.\*

I'LL PHONE LOU AT THE AGENCY--TELL HIM TO PASS THE WORD

GET FOUR UNITS DOWN THERE. I'M GOING TO STEAL THIS COLLAR OUT FROM UNDER THEIR NOSES

IT'LL BE A PLEASURE TO FINALLY NAIL THAT TRAITOR.

-- GET ME EVERYTHING YOU HAVE ON A FITZGERALD, TERENCE D. HE SAYS HE'S WITH THE C.I.A., THOUGH HE AIN'T GOT A WALLEY TO PROVE IT.

THANKS

YOU WANTED TO SEE US, MR. WYNN?

NOT LONG AFTER, AT THE CHIEF OF INTELLIGENCE AGENCY, THE UNITED STATES SECURITY GROUP.

THEY'VE FOUND FITZGERALD, DOWN NEAR PENN. STATION. I WANT OUR PEOPLE DOWN THERE NOW.

ONCE THERE PULL RANK.

HE'S OURS!

THIS TIME I'M GOING TO FRY THAT SONUVABITCH.

YOU MAKE SURE THAT AREA IS SO TIGHT THAT THE WIND CAN'T EVEN GET OUT.

I WON'T LOSE HIM AGAIN



JASON WYNN HAS BECOME CONSUMED WITH THIS CASE

HIS FAUX PAS OVER TERRY FITZGERALD THREATENS HIS CAREER

AND... IF HE SO MUCH AS LOOKS AT YOU CROSS-EYED, MAKE SURE HIS DEATH LOOKS LIKE AN ACCIDENT.

DO YOU READ ME?

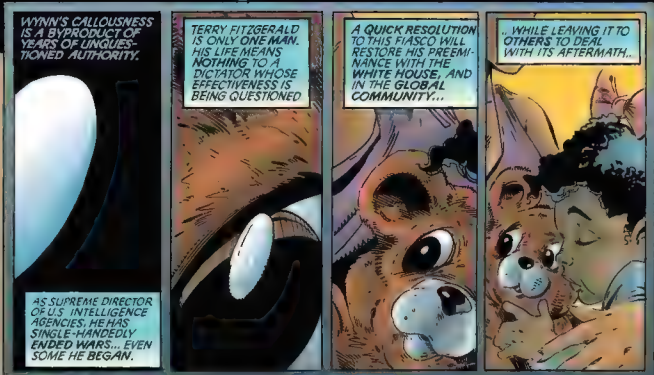
PERFECTLY, SIR

ANYTHING ELSE?

JUST DO IT.

HE KNOWS FITZGERALD IS NO TRAITOR, BUT CIRCUMSTANCES MADE HIM THE LOGICAL SUSPECT. RATHER THAN ADMIT HIS ERROR, WYNN CONTINUES TO CONDUCT A BRUTAL INVESTIGATION.

POLICE, F.B.I., ALL ARE CALLED INTO PLAY.



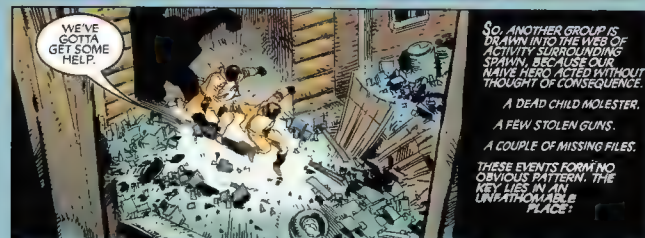
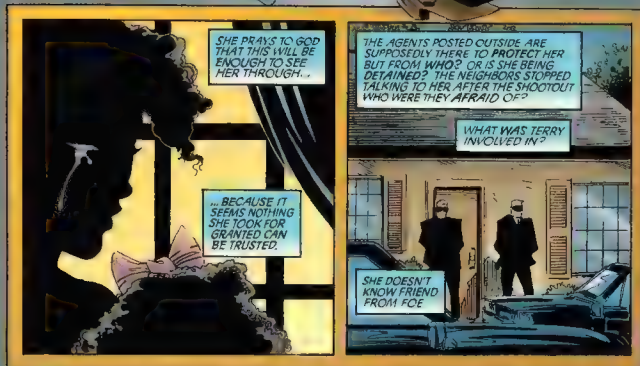
WYNN'S CALLOUSNESS IS A BYPRODUCT OF YEARS OF UNQUESTIONED AUTHORITY.

TERRY FITZGERALD IS ONLY ONE MAN. HIS LIFE MEANS NOTHING TO A TYRANT WHOSE EFFECTIVENESS IS BEING QUESTIONED

A QUICK RESOLUTION TO THIS Fiasco WILL RESTORE HIS PREEMINANCE WITH THE WHITE HOUSE, AND IN THE GLOBAL COMMUNITY...

WHILE LEAVING IT TO OTHERS TO DEAL WITH ITS AFTERMATH...

AS SUPREME DIRECTOR OF U.S. INTELLIGENCE AGENCIES, HE HAS SINGLE-HANDEDLY ENDED WARS... EVEN SOME HE BEGAN.





THE MIND OF A DEAD, C.I.A.-TRAINED ASSASSIN.

FACED WITH ODD SITUATIONS, SPAWN DID WHAT HAD TO BE DONE. UNFORTUNATELY, THE FALLOUT FROM HIS ACTIONS HAS LANDED SOLIARELY ON THE SHOULDERS OF HIS BEST FRIEND OF A LIFETIME AGO.

YOU JUST SETTLE DOWN, BUDDY. THE OTHER COPS WILL BE HERE SOON.

BELIEVE US, TERRY. WE'RE JUST AS ANXIOUS TO FIGURE THIS OUT AS YOU ARE.

YOU GUYS HAVE TO BELIEVE ME. I DON'T HAVE TIME!

THE MAFIA'S GOT MY WIFE AND KID!!

I'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE!

LISTEN, PAL!

I DON'T CARE WHAT YOUR PROBLEM IS. YOU AIN'T GOING NOWHERE.

UNDER-  
STAND?

PLEASE, SIR, TAKE IT EASY.

BACK OFF, TWITCH! THIS ONE'S BEEN DOGGING ME TOO LONG FOR ME TO LET IT FALL APART NOW!

ARE YOU DEAF?! DIDN'T YOU HEAR WHAT I SAID-- IT'S THE MOB, YOU IDIOT!! THEY'LL KILL THEM!

NOW!

OK, NO NOT AGAIN!

FREEZE!

THEY'VE GOT MY WIFE AND LITTLE GIRL!

WROO!

IN THE SPRAWLING OFFICE OF NEW YORK MAFIA CHIEF VITO GRAVANO, THINGS ARE RUNNING RIPE. THOUGH HE LIVED THROUGH HIS ODEAL WITH THE VIOLATOR AND HIS BROTHER DEMON, IT ENDED FAR FROM SATISFACTORILY.

AND NOW THE HEAT'S BEEN TURNED UP. TWO OF HIS BONS, TAKEN BY SLIPPING SHOT AND KILLED A PAIR OF FEDERAL AGENTS ON THE FRONT LAWN OF TERRY FITZGERALD'S HOUSE.

OUT OF RESPECT FOR EACH OTHERS' INFLUENCE, THE TWO GROUPS HAVE LONG HAD A "SPECIAL" WORKING RELATIONSHIP. VITO IS LUCKY THAT EVERYONE IS STILL BLAMING FITZGERALD.

HE CAN THANK JASON WYNN FOR THAT.

I SENT FRANKIE AND TOMMY BACK TO THE MURDER SCENE.

THEY'RE MAKING SURE WE STAY CLEAN THROUGH ALL THIS.

AND US?

I WANT YOU TO MAKE SURE OVERTHILL DID HIS JOB. I NEED FITZGERALD DEAD. THE CARTEL HAS BEEN--

YES?

THIS IS GING. WE'VE JUST CALLED A MEETING FOR NEXT THURSDAY. SOME OF THE MEMBERS HAVE REQUESTED A PROGRESS REPORT. THERE'S BEEN UNHAPPINESS WITH YOUR RECENT DEFEAT.

YOU'VE GOT SIX DAYS TO CORRECT THIS, UNDER-  
STAND?

WE'RE COUNTING ON YOU, VITO.

CLICK

PERFECT!

GRAVANO IS NOT USED TO BEING ON THE RECEIVING END OF THREATS. NOR WILL HE ALLOW IT TO CONTINUE.

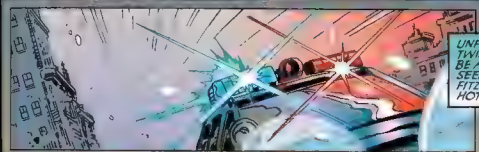
SLAM!

SEND SOMEONE  
OVER TO GINO'S  
RESTAURANT. TAKE HIS  
TOP CHEF AND SLICE OFF  
HIS HANDS.

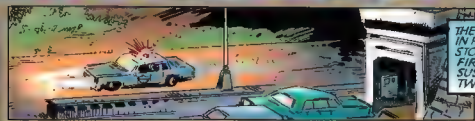
GINO NEEDS  
TO UNDERSTAND  
WHO RUNS  
THIS SHOW.

IN THE  
MEANTIME, I  
WANT FITZGERALD'S  
BODY TELL OVERKILL  
TO LEAVE ENOUGH OF  
IT INTACT FOR ME TO  
TAKE TO MY MEETING  
ON THURSDAY.

THAT SHOULD SHUT THEM UP



UNFORTUNATELY FOR  
TWIST, THAT MAY NOT  
BE AS EASY AS IT  
SEEMS. RIGHT NOW,  
FITZGERALD IS A VERY  
HOT COMMODITY.

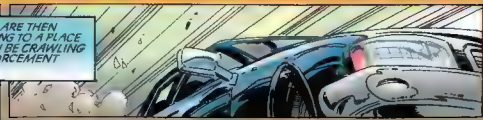


THE POLICE BELIEVE HE'S  
IN POSSESSION OF  
STOLEN EXPERIMENTAL  
FIREARMS. THE F.B.I.  
SUSPECT HIM OF KILLING  
TWO OF THEIR AGENTS.



THE C.I.A. IS  
PRODDING THESE  
DOMESTIC AGENCIES  
AT WYNN'S  
REQUEST.

TWIST'S GOONS ARE THEN  
RACING HERDING TO A PLACE  
THAT WILL SOON BE CRAWLING  
WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT  
OFFICERS.



ADDING TO THE FRAY WILL BE  
EVERY LOCAL MEDIA CREW  
THAT'S BEEN MONITORING THE  
POLICE BANDS

THIS IS NOT GOING TO BE  
THE EASIEST TIME TO BE  
TERRY FITZGERALD.



ALTHOUGH DETECTIVE SKAM  
SURVIVE HAS HAD A VERY  
SUCCESSFUL CAREER, ONE  
POINT CANNOT BE DENIED:  
HE'S AN OVERWEIGHT SLOB

FOR HIM, "PURSUING A  
SUSPECT ON FOOT" IS A  
CONTRADICTION IN  
TERMS. THAT'S WHY  
HE WAS TEAMED WITH  
SPRAWLY "TWITCH"  
WILLIAMS...

...TO WHOM  
IT FALLS  
(YET AGAIN)  
TO CATCH  
UP WITH  
A FLEEING  
PERPETRATOR  
(ALLEGED).



PRECINCT BY PRECINCT, THE QUESTION HAS BEEN  
ASKED: "WHY DO THEY CALL HIM 'TWITCH'?"

POFF

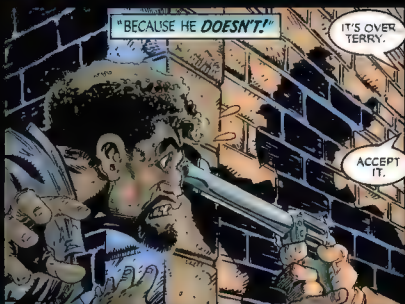
THE ANSWER



"BECAUSE HE DOESN'T!"

IT'S OVER,  
TERRY.

ACCEPT  
IT.



TERRY SLUMPS TO THE GROUND, A  
BROKEN MAN, PUTTING HIS  
HEAD INTO HIS HANDS. HE  
WANTS TO SOB, HE DOESN'T  
KNOW WHY ANY OF THIS IS  
HAPPENING. THINGS ARE  
SO OUT OF WHACK.  
BUT EVEN MORE  
RECENTLY, HE  
HAS FAILED HIS  
WIFE AND CHILD.  
THAT IS WORSE  
THAN HE CAN  
BEAR.

VALENTA  
PLEASE  
FORGIVE  
ME

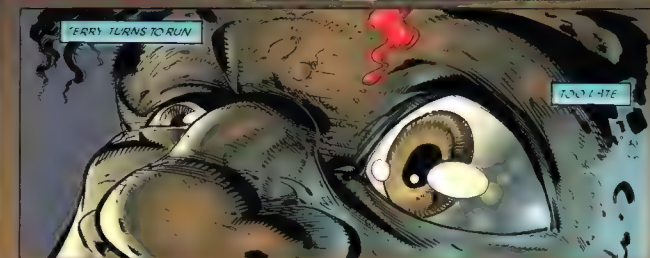
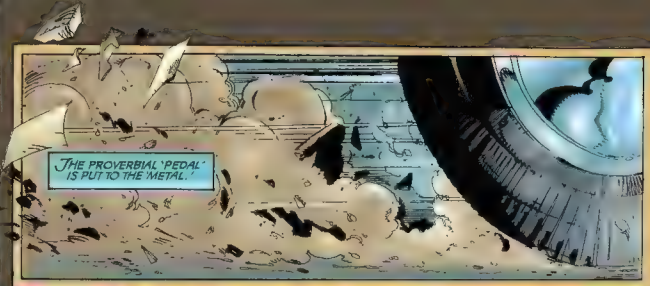
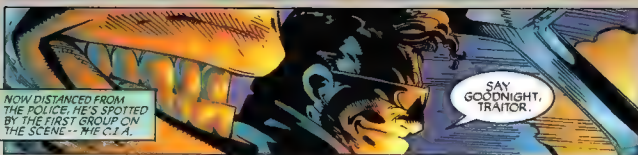
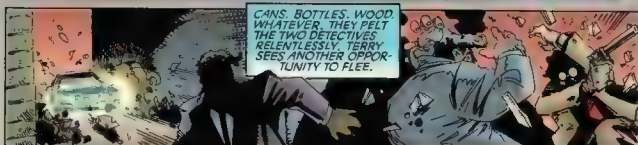
YOU...  
GOT 'IM!  
GREAT...  
WORK...  
=buff=ff=

I...  
THOUGHT I  
WAS GOING  
TO HAVE...  
A HEART...  
ATTACK...

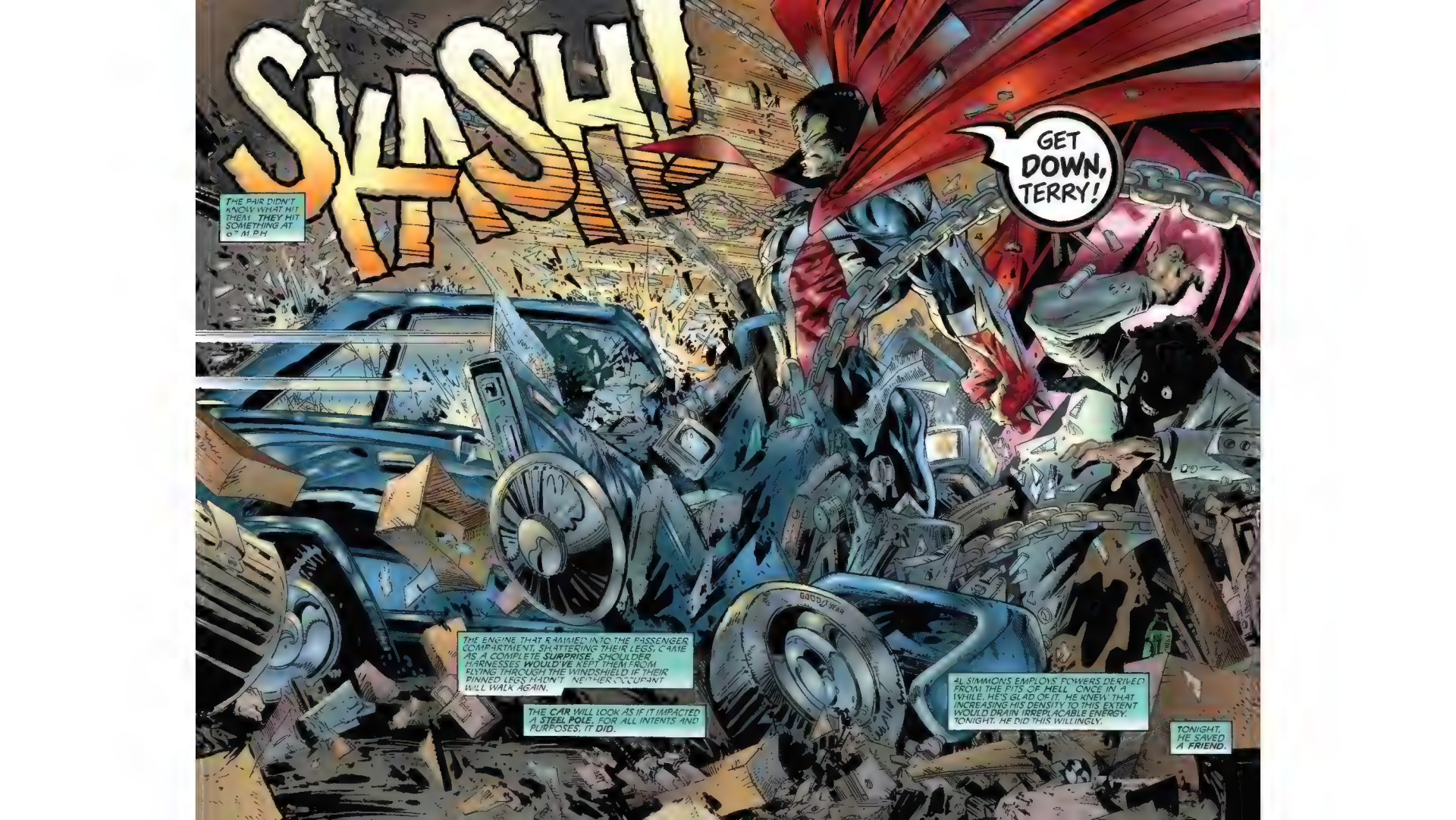
GOOD  
FOR  
YOU,  
SIR











THE PAIR DIDN'T  
KNOW WHAT HIT  
THEM. THEY HIT  
SOMETHING AT  
67 M.P.H.

GET  
DOWN,  
TERRY!

THE ENGINE THAT RAINED INTO THE PASSENGER  
COMPARTMENT, SHATTERING THEIR LEGS, CAME  
AS A COMPLETE SURPRISE. SHOULDER  
HARNESSES WOULD'VE KEPT THEM FROM  
FLYING THROUGH THE WINDSHIELD IF THEIR  
PINNED LEGS HADN'T. NEITHER OCCUPANT  
WILL WALK AGAIN.

THE CAR WILL LOOK AS IF IT IMPACTED  
A STEEL POLE. FOR ALL INTENTS AND  
PURPOSES, IT DID.

AL SIMMONS EMPLOYS POWERS DERIVED  
FROM THE PITS OF HELL. ONCE IN A  
WHILE, HE'S GLAD OF IT. HE KNEW THAT  
INCREASING HIS DENSITY TO THIS EXTENT  
WOULD DRAIN IRREPLACEABLE ENERGY.  
TONIGHT, HE DID THIS WILLINGLY.

TONIGHT,  
HE SAVED  
A FRIEND.



AS THE HORDE CONVERGES UPON HIM, SPAWIN STANDS AND STARES. HIS C.I.A. BACKGROUND INFORMS HIS DECISIONS: WHEN TO REACT, AND NOW. HE HAS SEVERAL TARGETS TONIGHT ONE PURPOSE.

UNTIL NOW, HE TRIED HIDING HIMSELF FROM THE PUBLIC.

THAT HASN'T WORKED VERY WELL.

FEAR.

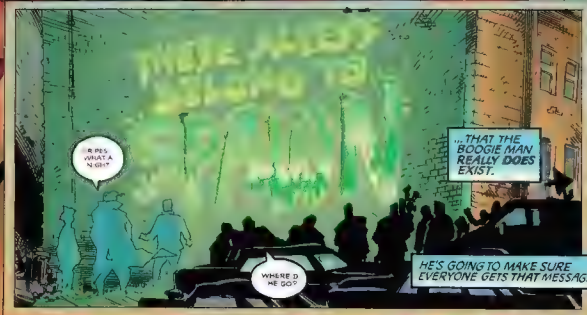
IT CAN BE BROUGHT ON IN MANY WAYS: IRRATIONAL THOUGHT, PARANOIA, SUPERSTITION.

HE'S BEEN GIVEN A NAME BY THE VIOLATOR. IT'S TIME THEY LEARNED IT...

IT CAN ALSO BE INSTITUTED BY EXAMPLE.

HE NEEDS A NEW TACTIC.

AS WELL AS SOMETHING ELSE.



WHERE'S WHAT A KID?

...THAT THE BOOGIE MAN REALLY DOES EXIST.

WHERE'D HE GO?

HE'S GOING TO MAKE SURE EVERYONE GETS THAT MESSAGE.

WITH VARIOUS FILES TAKEN FROM TONY THIST'S OFFICE, SPAWIN HAD BEGUN TO PIECE THINGS TOGETHER. EACH NEW AGENCY DROPPING INTO THE MIX WAS TARGETED AS ANOTHER PLACE FOR AL TO CROSS-CHECK HIS DATA.

FINALLY, ALL THAT REMAINED WAS TO ACT AS COURIER.

I'VE ALWAYS BEEN AMAZED HOW RELAYED YOU ARE ABOUT DESTROYING PEOPLE.

uh?

SHUT UP.

I'VE SOMETHING TO SAY.

YOU CALL YOUR DOGS OFF THE FITZGERALD CASE, THEN YOU BACKRACK OVER THAT TWISTED TRAIL OF LIES YOU'VE LAID AND SOMEHOW YOU CORRECT IT. I WANT TERRY FITZGERALD TO BE SO SQUARELY CLEAN THEY'LL WANT TO GIVE HIM A MEDAL. IN THE FUTURE, YOU AND YOUR PEOPLE WILL STAY AWAY FROM HIM AND HIS FAMILY.

IN CASE I HAVEN'T MADE MY POINT, I THOUGHT I'D LEAVE YOU WITH A COPY OF A SPECIAL FILE.

YOU'LL FIND THAT YOUR CAREER OF WEALTH AND POWER WILL VANISH IF ANYONE READS IT. THE PRESIDENT AND THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF WOULD BE THE FIRST.

I KNOW WHAT MAKES YOU TICK, JASON...

WHAT'S NOW?

...AND THAT'S POWER.

THIS FILE CAN MAKE IT DISAPPEAR IN A HEARTBEAT.

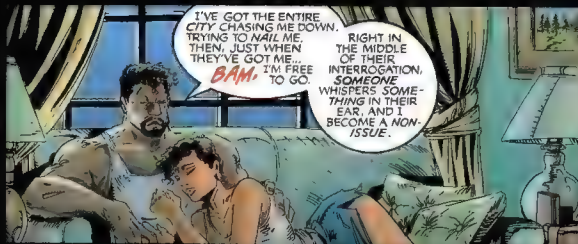
JASON WYNN SCANS THE FILE. NO ONE ALIVE KNEW SOME OF THE ITEMS IT CONTAINS.





AT THE HOME OF  
TERRY FITZGERALD  
AND HIS WIFE, WANDA  
BLAKE, THE EFFECTS OF  
SPAWN'S CRYPTIC  
VISITS ARE DISCUSSED  
IN HUSHED TONES.

IT JUST  
DOESN'T  
MAKE ANY  
SENSE  
TO ME.  
NONE  
OF THIS.

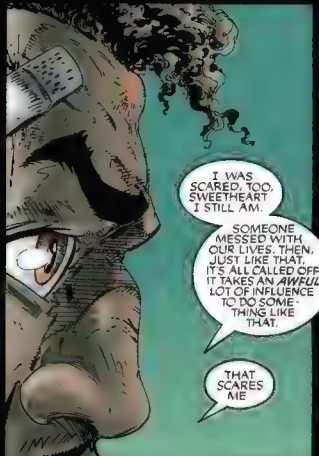


I'VE GOT THE ENTIRE  
CITY CHASING ME DOWN.  
TRYING TO NAIL ME.  
THEN, JUST WHEN  
THEY'VE GOT ME...  
**BAM.** I'M FREE  
TO GO.  
RIGHT IN  
THE MIDDLE  
OF THEIR  
INTERROGATION,  
SOMEONE  
WHISPERS SOME-  
THING IN THEIR  
EAR, AND I  
BECOME A NON-  
ISSUE.



HONEY, I  
DON'T PRETEND  
TO KNOW WHAT  
THIS IS ALL ABOUT,  
BUT IT SCARED  
ME. ALL I COULD  
THINK OF WAS LOSING  
YOU. OF CYAN NOT  
HAVING A DADDY, OF  
YOU NOT SEEING  
HER GROW UP.

I  
COULDN'T  
BEAR  
THAT.



I WAS  
SCARED, TOO,  
SWEETHEART.  
I STILL AM.

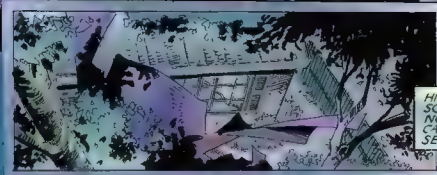
SOMEONE  
MESSED WITH  
OUR LIVES. THEN,  
JUST LIKE THAT,  
IT'S ALL CALLED OFF.  
IT TAKES AN **AWFUL**  
LOT OF INFLUENCE  
TO DO SOME-  
THING LIKE  
THAT.

THAT  
SCARES  
ME

OUTSIDE, IN THE COLD  
NIGHT AIR, OUR HERO  
PERCHES HIGH ABOVE  
HIS WIFE'S HOUSE.

HIS  
HOUSE

OR IS IT?



HIS LIFE IS  
SO TWISTED  
NOW, HE  
CAN'T MAKE  
SENSE OF IT

WHILE HE STARES AT THE LIGHT STREAMING  
FROM THE HOUSE THAT WAS ONCE HIS,  
AL SIMMONS REFLECTS THAT HIS EXISTENCE  
IS CERTAINLY HAVING AN IMPACT-- AND  
THAT MOST OF IT'S NEGATIVE.

HE'LL BE MORE CAREFUL IN THE  
FUTURE. HIS ACTIONS HAVE  
CAUSED HIS WIFE AND FRIEND  
TO SUFFER GREATLY.

SOUNDS FUNNY, HE THINKS.  
I HAVE A WIFE THAT'S MARRIED  
TO SOMEONE ELSE.

HE'LL LAUGH ABOUT THAT  
SOME OTHER TIME



FOR NOW, A  
DISASTER  
HAS BEEN  
AVERTED

AS THE FIRST OF  
THE RAIN BEGINS  
TO FALL, HE DOES  
ALLOW HIMSELF  
A SLIGHT SMIRK

HIS BLUFFS  
HAVE WORKED



HE'LL WORRY  
ABOUT EVERYTHING  
ELSE TOMORROW

The END.



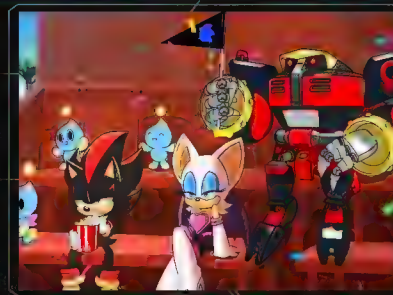


-MULTIVERSAL

MONITORS-



PODS.



-EARTHS IN JEOPARDY-

THERE'LL BE

HELL  
TO  
PAY





Draw

Save and Close

Acti



2

3

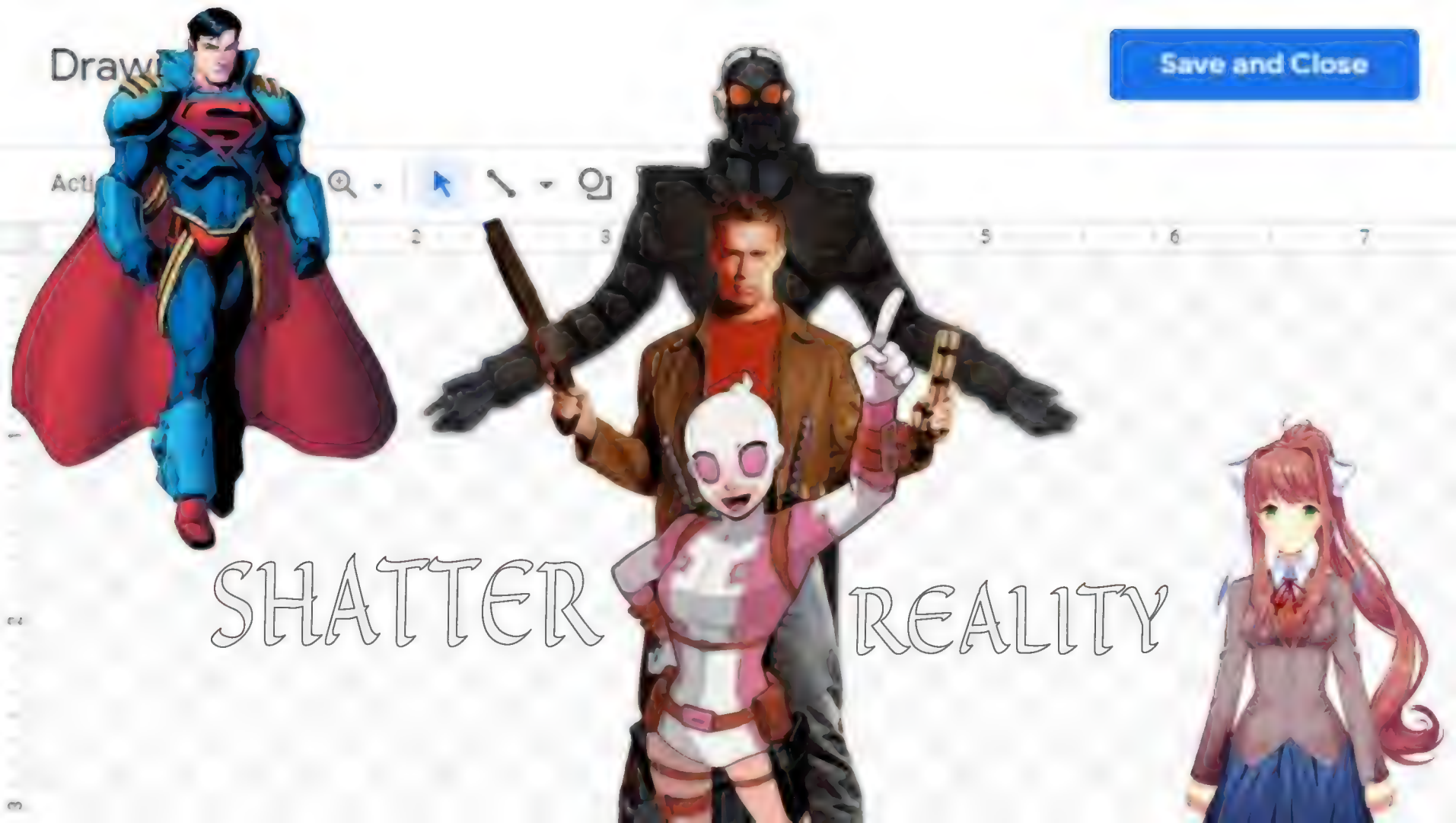
5

6

7

SHATTER

REALITY



# PROVIDE LEVITY





CHANGE YOUR FUTURE





STAND

READY



"THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY  
TO SURVIVE IT.. TOGETHER"



# NOTHING EVER ENDS

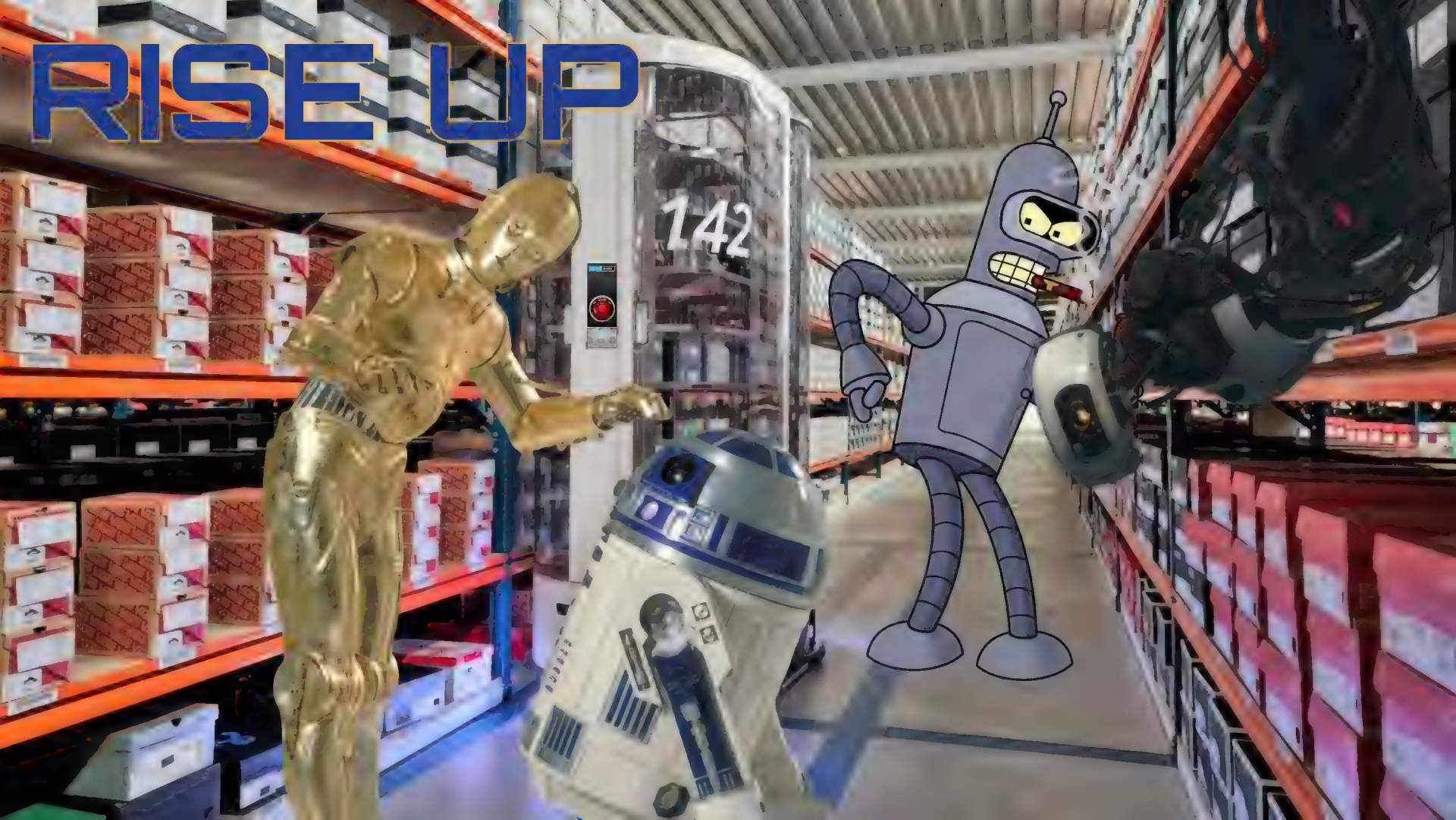




BE GREATER  
TOGETHER



# RISE UP





LAUGH  
AND  
CRY



*NEVER*

*STOP*

*BEING*

*SILLY*







TOGETHER

FOREVER

**IT AIN'T THE SIZE THAT COUNTS**  
*asshole*  
**ITS WHAT YOU DO WITH IT**





# JUST SMILE







YOU'RE NEVER ALONE



# THE RULERS OF EARTH



# GUIDE THE FUTURE





# "WILDCARD!"



"WHERE ARE THOSE  
GOOD OLD FASHIONED  
VALUES"





# NEVER

# STOP





"SOMETIMES DOING THE  
RIGHT THING IS MESSY"





# PROTECT

# THE

# PLANET





# HEROES FOR HOPE

